

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 15, 2021

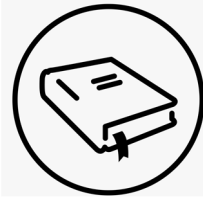
Many times, when people say church they think of a spirited worship service, an inspiring sermon but is that alone church? That would be like a person who when they think about family they only think of food or a person when think about their job all they think about is the money. That mindset can be self-centered. When it is self-centered it may for a moment be self-gratifying, but after a while it becomes like the effects of a drug or alcohol, a need for more to arrive at the feeling, rather than grow to become better.



To understand, in this short article, “why church,” is to first understand what Satan seeks to do when we are away from church. Satan’s desire is to find anything he can to destroy us (John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8-9). He establishes whatever he can to gratify the flesh because he knows it is contrary to God (Galatians 5:16-19) and its natural desires have nothing to do with God, it is very attracted to what he does in the world (James 4:1-4; we are born sinners – Psalm 51:5). Since he is in control of the world (1 John 5:19) he sets up the world to serve the flesh because this will automatically make us an enemy of God (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15). He does this by working with the parts of our body that never got saved; the eye (Matthew 6:22-23), the tongue (James 3), the mind (Romans 2:12), the stomach (Philippians 3:19), how we work with our hands, etc. We can become slaves to these non-saved members of our body (Romans 6:12-14) moving us towards him, not God. Satan has twenty-four seven to do this while God only has two, two-hour days to make an impact in our lives. So, Satan uses his power over the world to lure us away from God so that we like a fish out of water are at his mercy.

On the other hand, God is trying to develop us from the inside out because when He saves us, He deposits in us the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-8; Christ Helper) to transform us when we demonstrate a commitment to grow (Philippians 2:12-13). When that determination is firm God uses the church to steer us away from the flesh to the work of the Spirit (Romans 8:5-12). As a result, the Spirit impacts everything in the church; the selection of a pastor (Ephesians 4:11), the selection of leaders (Acts 14:23; 20:28), spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:1-7), and the preached word (Romans 10:14-17; Acts 2:42). When members use their spiritual gifts, are committed to discipleship, and to love each other, the Spirit’s work is not quenched (1 Thessalonians 4:14-19), so members end up blessed from Zion (Ephesians 4:13; John 13:34-35; Psalm 128:5-6) experiencing long life. A lack of taking this seriously can cause God to turn us over to our enemy (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).

UPCOMING Events



Bible Study with Pastor Paul Cannings
4 Ways To Connect
Tuesdays | 12 noon & 7 p.m.
 1. In-Person
 2. LIVE on Facebook
 3. LIVE on YouTube
 4. Free Conference Call 1-978-990-5374
 Access 1165799



Family Ties Conference— POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 5th—8th
 Join us for a 3-day event nightly at 7 p.m. for the *Family Ties Conference* with special guest speaker Dr. Paul Chipman, author of the book, “*Conflict in the Mind*”. We will deal with how conflict affects family relationships and how they can be mended to be healthy relationships as God intended. All ages are welcomed. For more information on our Family Ministry contact jeffrey.lynn85@gmail.com
REGISTER ONLINE by visiting the church’s event page.



Creative Jams
 Every Saturday in August, the LWFC Drama Ministry will host a Drama Workshop in the Choir Room from 1-3 p.m. If you are interested in writing, acting, stage management, production, etc., please contact Elisha Taylor and Melita Washington.



Marriage Summit
 Calling All Married Couples The Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry will Host a Marriage Summit Workshop on **August 28th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** in Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact Terry and Sherri Randle at lwfcmarriagein@gmail.com. The cost is only \$15 per couple for the conference (*luncheon not included*) **REGISTER ONLINE by visiting the church’s event page.**



Baptism Class
 This will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m. in Classroom #2 (Legacy). Due to Covid restrictions we are planning a revised baptism - please be present for the class to receive the instructions. For additional information please contact Pastor Lawrence by calling (281) 260-7402. Baptism Sundays-Aug 22nd & 29th. **REGISTER ONLINE by visiting the church’s event page.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 The Children’s Ministry is in need of workers who are committed to serving God’s children. All interested persons, please contact Sylvia Edwards at 281.260.740 or sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Visitor’s Welcome
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Undefeated

Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10;
 1 Peter 2:4-8; Ephesians 2:20

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.
Ages 2—6th grade



SERMON OUTLINE

Undefeated

Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10
1 Peter 2:4-8; Eph. 2:20

A. Satan Cannot Prevail (vs. 18b-19):

- Satan uses a variety of mechanisms (drugs, storms (Ephesians 2:1-2), diseases, plagues, wars, etc.) to create death; his mission is to create complete destruction (John 10:10), and he is persistent (Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8 – constantly seeking) in his efforts.
- Death does not reign in the church for the following reasons:
 - Who Christ is “The son of the living God”.
 - “I also say...” – Christ speaks with authority. His Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11).
 - Christ is building His Church; we are not. He gives us the spiritual gifts to make all this work (1 Corinthians 12:4-8).
 - We have the keys. The Holy Spirit is poured into us, and He opens our minds to be able to use the keys.
 - When we do the binding and loosing under Christ’s authority, heaven provides us with the power and authority.
 - If the Lord chooses to heal us in heaven and we pass, those who are saved are immediately in the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- The church restrains the evil work of the devil (1 Peter 4:17). The Holy Spirit is the restrainer, therefore, we must do whatever it takes to not quench His work in the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-12-22). If Christ removes His lampstand from the church, there is no restrainer (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12).
- It is Christ’ church, so He will provide the church a permanent possession of His keys to equip the church to deal with the onslaught of Satan’s attacks.
- Got to have the keys - as discussed – Here is where we are with keys:
 - The “keys” (16:19) were a symbol of authority to open or close doors (cf. Isa. 22:22). “The authority given to Peter was later given to the other apostles as well (18:18).” [1]
 - Got to have the keys.
 - The Word of God (not “a” key, “the key”) is the only defense against Satan (Hebrews 4:12). It keeps the armor on us (Ephesians 6:14) and it is the “sword of the Spirit.” (Ephesians 6:17).
 - Got to have the keys. It is “the keys” for “the gates”. It is specific keys for specific gates. We must learn what specific scriptural text to use to the specific attacks that Satan advances against us.
 - The key to the “keys” is the presence of the Holy Spirit in each believer’s life (Titus 3:4-8). Growing spiritually allows us to better know how to use the keys (1 John 1:5-7).
- Christ did not say “open and lock”. He said “bind and loose”; WHY? Christ seems to not be talking about Satan anymore because He is saying “whatever” not whoever.
- Matthew 18:15-20 teaches us that whatever also means whoever, because when sin is allowed to run rampant in a church with no accountability Christ no longer empowers the church. He takes His lampstand (Revelation 3:12-17).
- Satan attacks our thoughts so that he can stop us from seeking to renew our minds (2 Corinthians 10:2-6). If he succeeds, we conform to the world and become enemies of God (Romans 2; James 4:1-4; 1 John 2:15-17).
- Using the keys because of the development of the Holy Spirit in our lives sets us free (John 8:31-32).
- Using the keys because of the development of the Holy Spirit in our lives sets us free (John 8:31-32).
- We are protected no matter what Satan does because we got the power (Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4) because of how the kingdom of heaven responds to us, not Satan.

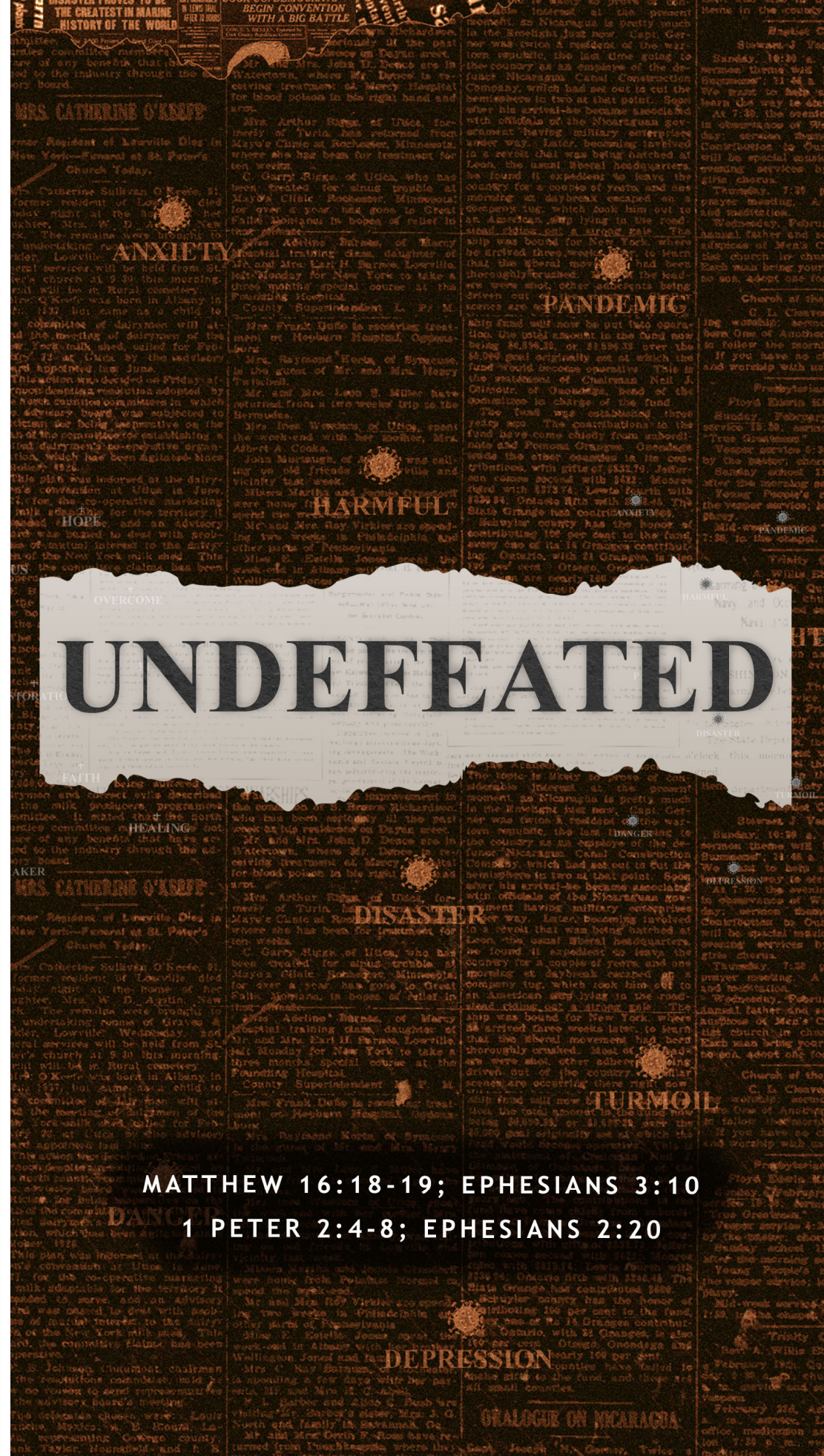
B. We are Empowered (Ephesians 3:10; 6:10-12):

- This verse provides the intent, the purpose of the “administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God” revealed through the preaching of the Gospel.
- The skillful application of God’s Word in its highest and fullest sense when being applied to real life situations has a number of different ways it can be applied. (James 1:5-9; 3:15-18).
- The numerous ways of God’s wisdom being exposed takes place through the collection of faithful believers gathered as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a herald to worship Christ proclaiming the salvific work of God.
- Rulers and authority is a reference to the evil forces of Satan who function with power and authority and have the ability and strength to execute their wicked agenda (Ephesians 6:11-12).
- All the schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11) of Satan (the gates) meet with the wisdom of God (the Keys – different keys need multifaceted wisdom) that is multifaceted (gates) for all the schemes of the Devil.
- Because we now have the manifold wisdom of God in the church that Christ builds, leads, and provides His keys that empowers it, we can be strong, wear the armor, and resist everything Satan does (Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9).

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Catherine Asuquo & family, Shanna Edwards & family, Daphne Banks & family, Wendy Oliver & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Valencia Rucker & family, Caesar and Mary Ngwazini & family, Joseph and Cici Sharp & family, and Pastor Duane Lawrence & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlene Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle.



MATTHEW 16:18-19; EPHESIANS 3:10
1 PETER 2:4-8; EPHESIANS 2:20