

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 12, 2021

The challenge to make wise decisions is before us every day (Proverbs 16:9); the decision of who to date or who to marry, which job to take, which school to go to, whether or not to have more children, and many more life situations. Life just seems to be full of decisions for which we seek God because we desire wisdom. The struggle is the fact that we do not know how our decisions will impact the future. (Proverbs 24:14. We cannot predict or control the future. When this fact drives us to God, what we are seeking is wisdom. Proverbs 8:1 says; “Does not wisdom call, and understanding lift up her voice?” We all know the answer. This is why Proverbs 8:11 says; “For wisdom is better than jewels, and all desirable things cannot compare with her.” This is because decisions can impact our lives in so many devastating ways that money cannot replace or fix. (James 3:13-18) “He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good.” (Proverbs 19:8) “By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong, and a person of knowledge increases power.” (Proverbs 24:3-5; NASU) Gaining wisdom is a prayer with no doubt (James 1:5-7), it begins with reverencing God in all we do (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10) and it can be experienced by seeking those who are committed to live under God’s counsel. “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22) “The way of a fool seems right to him, but the wise man listens to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15) “Somewhere I have met the incident of one, whose mind was hung about by atheistic doubts, walking in the woods and reading. As he read he came upon the sentence from Plato, “God always geometrizes.” Just then he noticed a simple white flower blooming at his feet. He plucked it, and carefully began to count its petals; there were five. He counted the stamens; there were five. He counted the divisions at the flower's base; there were five. Then interested in the discovery, he set himself to computing the mathematical chances against the probability of the appearance of a flower set about with this fiveness by a merely unintelligent happening. They were as a hundred and twenty-five to one. But here was another flower of the same sort, and then another, and then another, whitening the fields, thousands of them and everyone gripped by just this fiveness—no more, and no less. No wonder he exclaimed: “Bloom on, little flowers, you have a God, and I have a God; the God that made these flowers made me.” (from Heartwarming Bible Illustrations Copyright © 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.) God who sustains the universe everyday portrays His vast wisdom each moment of the day; trust Him!



UPCOMING Events



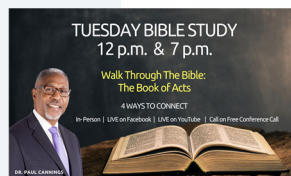
RWANDA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Living Word is partnering with TL Africa Inc. for the Rwanda University Project. The University will train pastors and leaders in 5 countries across Africa and focus on pastoral leadership, women’s empowerment, sustainability and the completion of the Thousand Hills University building. Give to this dynamic project under the **GIVE** tab and choose **Rwanda University Project**.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDYING METHODS

Men...do you have a desire to understand the Bible at a deeper level? Do you desire to have the tools necessary to study the Word of God in a way where the words jump off the page and your life is transformed? Join us as we learn fundamental ways to study the word of God on **Sept. 25th and Oct. 16th**. For more information contact James Thompson at (281) 851-6958.



BIBLE STUDY WITH DR. 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



TITUS 2 MEET & GREET

Calling all the Ladies 18-30! Join us for our first annual Titus 2 Meet and Greet! Break bread, fellowship and connect with your sisters in Christ. For more information please contact **Keron Brown or Elisha Taylor (281) 507-0102 or keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



LWFC KIDZ PUPPET MINISTRY

The Puppet Ministry will begin rehearsals today, Sunday, September 12th from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the Children's Wing. **Saturday rehearsals will begin September 25th | 10am—12pm**
For more information, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at sedward@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

LWFC is seeking a **part-time receptionist**. Submit resume to: goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Open Door

Hebrews 10:19-25

Pierre Cannings

Assistant Pastor

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

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



Open Door

Hebrews 10:19-25

I Door Opened v. 19-21

- a. Confidence - a state of boldness and confidence, courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness, especially, in the presence of persons of high rank; means confident trust, the unhesitating adherence of a human soul to God as its only Master
 - 1. A key word in this verse is “confidence,” which denotes the objective idea of “authorization” granted by God by means of Christ’s blood but also entails the subjective notion of “confidence” or “boldness.”
- ii. Enter Holy Place
 - 1. Enter- act of arriving at a destination, entrance, access
 - i. The focus is more on the means of access rather than the act of entering, though both are true.
 - b. Holy Place - refers to the heavenly sanctuary without distinction
 - i. a reference to the sanctuary in heaven as contextually established from Heb 8:1–10:18.
- 2. Blood of Jesus - The freedom of access is a present reality (ἐWχοντες); yet the readers still need to be exhorted (v. 35) to hold on to the privileges which Christ has obtained for them
 - a. goes with ἐνεκαίνισεν, the idea being that Jesus had to die, in order to bring us into a living fellowship with God; the shedding of his blood meant that he had a body (10:5–10) to offer in sacri7ice (cp. 9:14).
- b. New and Living Way
 - i. Way - is in apposition to “entrance”
 - 1. New - sense ‘not previously existing recent or fresh
 - 2. Living to be life-productive, offer life by the ever-living high priest Jesus
 - ii. Inaugurated- to bring about the beginning of something with implication that it is newly established, ratify, inaugurate, dedicate
 - a. inaugurated or put into effect ;can convey the notion of “consecrated” or “dedicated b. In Heb. 9:18 it was used of inaugurating the old covenant (by implication, like the new covenant) with blood. The language is liturgical, even festive
- 2. Through Veil
 - a. Veil- the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, the holy of holies as a 7igure for heaven Hb 6:19
 - b. His Flesh - Christ has done perfectly and in reality for us what the levitical high priests did imperfectly and 7iguratively: he gained access by a new way to the living God, not only for himself, but for all who through him will share God’s life.
 - ii. Over House of God - The immediate context refers both to the believing community here on earth (v. 25a) and to an eschatological hope soon to be fulfilled (v. 25b). God’s people is one in heaven and on earth (cf. 11:39f.), united by Christ who has already entered the heavenly sanctuary (v. 19) as the πορ δρομος (6:20) of believers. For the concept of the house of God, cf. also Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15.

II. Let us Draw Near v.22

- a. Draw Near - frequently in Hebrews and in the LXX where it is used of the priests approaching God with a sacrifice for worship. The idea is that of “approach” and the present tense of the verb implies continuous or repeated approaching. There is a clear parallel here with Heb 4:16 where the identical verb form is used. There the focus is specifically on prayer, and this is included in the meaning of 10:22. However, given the overall context, it would appear the author has in mind all aspects of worship individually and corporately, with the focus here on corporate worship

- ii. Sincere Heart - meaning “true, genuine, sincere 1. The phrase evokes the relationship of heart-obedience to God that Jeremiah envisioned in terms of the “new heart” God would create in his people (Jer 31:33).
- iii. Full Assurance of Faith- complete con7idence, certainty” which is produced by “faith.
- b. Hearts Sprinkled Clean -This metaphorical language of sprinkling a heart emphasizes the internal nature of salvation in contrast to the external nature of the old covenant
 - i. Evil Conscious - These are actions which have already been accomplished for us at the moment of conversion, when the atonement is applied to our hearts resulting in the objective forgiveness of sins, internal cleansing, and the concomitant deliverance from a guilty conscience??
- ii. Body Washed
 - 1.Pure Water as priests were sprinkled with blood and bathed in water, to qualify them for their sacred service, so Christians may approach God with all con7idence, on the basis of Christ’s sacrifice,
 - 2. The most common interpretation of v 22b 7inds in the imagery of the sprinkled heart and the washed body an allusion to the consecration of Aaron and his sons to priestly service. When they were Installed in their of7ice, they were sprinkled with blood and their bodies were washed with water (Exod 29:4, 21; Lev 8:6, 30

III. Let us Hold Fast v.23

- a. Hold Fast – to adhere firmly to traditions, convictions, or beliefs, hold to, hold fast, hold fast, retain faithfully
 - 1. Hold Fast It is also used b. of holding fast spiritual values, instruction received or a course or attitude begun (in the good sense): Lk. 8:15; 1 C. 11:2; 15:2
- ii. Confession statement of allegiance, as content of an action, confession, acknowledgment that one makes refers more generally to the ‘profession’ of a de7inite, distinct belief
- iii. He Who Promised- Believers can count on God standing behind his promise, hence the reason we can “hold unswervingly” to the confession of our hope.

IV. Let us Consider v.24-25

- a. Consider - to think about carefully, envisage, think about, notice
 - 1. Stimulate rousing to activity, stirring up, provoking to sharpen, to stimulate, to incite. or stimulation to give special force to his summons to love and good works
 - 2. Love the quality of warm regard for and interest in another, esteem, affection, regard, love (without limitation to very intimate relationships
 - 3. Good Deeds of the deeds of humans, exhibiting a consistent moral character, referred to collectively
- b. Not Forsaking - to separate connection with someone or something forsake, abandon, desert
 - i. Own Assembling -a gathering together to or toward at some location, meeting, of a Christian group. Habit - for the conduct which has become a habit in some members of the congregation (τινελς) cannot be a falling away from the community means negligence
 - ii. Encouraging
 - 1. Day Drawing Near - day of judgment” at the time of the second coming of Christ. This day, known in the New Testament as the “Day of the Lord” (found many times in the Gospels, as well as in Acts 2:20; 1 Cor 3:13; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:2; Jude 6; Rev 6:17
 - 2. The promise is indicated by the approaching “Day of the Lord” (v 25b), when God’s plan for his covenant people will be brought to realization. The sober reminder that the Day of the Lord is drawing near offers a further incentive for continued active participation in the life of the community

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Pastor Duane Lawrence & family, Calvin Wilson & family, Jackie Ward & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Thurston Love & family, Larry Black & family, Marie Perkins & family, Mignette Dorsey & family and Collins Barcus & family.

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

OPEN DOOR

HEBREWS 10:19-25