

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 16, 2022

One day while I was waiting for a traffic light to change, I noticed how everyone seemed to be rushing in so many different directions. We were all so busy that it seemed like we were living on edge. The same thing occurred while I was sitting at an airport. I noticed how most of us were rushing; one lady was just pulling her son along while he was screaming to the top of his lungs. There were planes all going in different directions with their engines ready to go. It seems like time was giving us a whipping and we were all dying to please it.

How do we plan to use the time the Lord provides us this year (James 4:13-15; Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)? Will we allow time to control us or our purpose in life to determine how we manage ourselves in time? I know it is hard sometimes with all the demands on us. Are our demands being created by our giftedness, purpose, or ambitions? What is keeping us so busy and stressed? I am not saying we should relax and do our best to do nothing because the Bible states that would lead to poverty (Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4) and with the church of Laodicea, Christ was not happy (Revelation 3:14-18). The focus we should have is what do we need to do to manage ourselves in God's time zone? After all, Christ says; "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34; NASU)

The Lord has graciously provided us families, whether single parent homes, extended families, or nuclear families. God provided us with talents in order to successfully apply ourselves to a job, so that we are able to take care of our physical needs (Ecclesiastes 4:12-13). The Lord has blessed us with a spiritual gift so that His church can effectively execute His agenda (1 Peter 4:7-11). This is probably why Christ says in Hebrews, the race to run is not the rat race it is a race that He sets before us (Hebrews 12:1-3; remember chapter 11). He is also saying to us that He "has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness ....." (2 Peter 1:3-4). So, we have a race to run with a script (the Word) that is a light unto our path (1 John 1:5-7; Psalm 119:105). Light, meaning a clear direction that preserves us from mistakes and makes us productive (2 Peter 1:3-11; John 16:1).

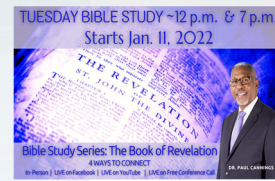
When we plan to go to work, we know exactly what it would take to be on time. We realize what can make us late, so we take precautions. As a result, we manage ourselves to achieve our objective. Covid hopefully taught us that the time God provides us is precious. So, this year let's allow our purpose to direct how we use the time God provides.



## UPCOMING Events



**Covenant Marriage Ministry Prayer Breakfast**  
Sat. Jan. 29th 8:30—11:00 a.m.  
Reconnect, Refresh and Re-Energize your Covenant Marriage! Covenant Keepers is pressing forward into the 2022 New Year with an Inspirational Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 29th. Come and partake of food for the body and the soul of Marriage in fellowship with the Spirit and other couples. Pastor Terrance O'Neil of Smyrna Baptist Church, Houston, TX, will be our guest speaker. Contact Terri and Sherri Randle for more information at [LWFCMarriageMin@gmail.com](mailto:LWFCMarriageMin@gmail.com) Register today at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events)



**Tuesday Bible Study - The Book of Revelation**  
12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Join Dr. Paul Cannings in this new Bible Study Series as he journeys through the Book of Revelation. There are 4 Ways to Connect: 1. IN-PERSON 2. LIVE on Facebook 3. LIVE on YouTube 4. LIVE on FREE Conference Call Start 2022 with a commitment to Study the Word of God each Week in Bible Study!



**Faith In Fitness Ministry**  
21 Day Challenge  
It's estimated that it takes people 21-28 days to form a new habit. This 21-Day Challenge is a commitment to making physical health a priority by moving your body for 30 minutes each day for the 21 days in efforts to form a new healthy habit. Join the Faith in Fitness Ministry. Join the Facebook Group to stay connected at [www.facebook.com/faithinfitness](http://www.facebook.com/faithinfitness) or contact Dean'na Mitchell at [dkmitchell87@gmail.com](mailto:dkmitchell87@gmail.com)



**Women's Ministry 2022 Kick Off**  
Calling all Living Word Fellowship ladies, get ready with a mind to reset, refocus and rebuild" (Nehemiah 4:6). Join us for the 2022 Women's Ministry Kickoff Saturday, February 5th, 2022 in the Legacy Sanctuary from 9-11 am. Our theme is "A Divine Reset to refocus and rebuild Nehemiah 4:6" Highlights of ministry areas and opportunities to sign up to serve will be available. Ladies let's jumpstart our 2022! Register today at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events)



**Power Walk Ministries is Hiring**  
Part-Time Secretary  
Power Walk Ministries led by Dr. Paul Cannings is seeking a part-time secretary. Must have good secretarial and computer skills. Must be available to come into the church office to conduct inventory, fulfill resource orders, prepare proper resources for conferences and provide monthly reports using Microsoft Excel. All interested candidates, please submit resumes to [goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto: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

"BE Purposeful"

Full sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://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



## BE Purposeful Nehemiah 4:9-14

### A. In Spite of . . . (vs. 9-10):

1. Prayer is a pattern in the Book of Nehemiah (1:6,11; 11:17).
2. Like Nehemiah who viewed God as “my God” (2:18) the people viewed God as covenantally connected to them, sovereign, all powerful and supreme over all their gods.
3. Out of concern for their families, non-military people created a military watch of their enemies.
4. They were, however, all tired because of all the rubble they had to manage.
5. The burden bearers had to deal with so much rubbish that their ability to keep working was beginning to wane.

### B. Despite the Power of the Opposition (vs. 11-12):

1. Their adversaries, who were creating much distress and anguish continuously kept speaking to them non-stop.
2. Their enemies’ plans were to execute a surprise attack on Israel.
3. The enemies’ intent was to slaughter the builders violently, and ruthlessly.
4. The intent of the enemy was to completely put an end to all skilled labor. This allowed the enemy to come in and abuse Israel at will. Satan wants to discourage us so he can abuse us.
5. The Israelites who lived near the enemy continuously communicated the plans of the enemy.

### C. Live by Faith, Not by Sight (vs. 14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:7):

1. Nehemiah, by careful observation, saw that the load was unbearable, and the enemy had also terrified them.
2. Nehemiah asserted himself by endlessly seeking to communicate with His people.
3. Nehemiah instructed the people that there was no reason to be terrified.
4. Nehemiah commanded them to mediate and recollect that the Lord has a relationship with them, not their enemies and He is an army for them.
5. The Lord is not only their army, but He is also great.
6. Nehemiah reminds them that the Lord is to be feared because of His almighty power.
7. Nehemiah uses the word for the Lord, Adonai; God is their warrior.
8. When faith was demonstrated God acted. He broke up all the strategies their advisers had deliberated and organized to execute.
9. The builders, upon seeing how the Lord responded went back to work despite how tired they were.
10. They all became more energized and determined to finish the work.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Lula Walker & family, Carlton Lopes & family, Carolyn Hadnot & family, Alexander Cranford & family, Bobby Lawrence & family, Pam Collier & family and Craig Crowe & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Anthony Davis, Kathleen Franklin, and Thurston Love & family.



Nehemiah 4:9-14