

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 27, 2022

We Can and Must Progress

Blacks in the Bible were not all slaves, poor, and uneducated. In fact, Blacks have made many contributions to our biblical history. Nimrod was a descendant of Ham and was a great warrior of God and ruled the earth (Genesis 10:8-12). His ability in war was also highlighted in 2 Chronicles 14:9,11. Here, Zerah and his Ethiopian army of one million with three hundred chariots (the number of chariots, in those days, demonstrates their strength and wealth) attacked the Israelites and their cities, which were well developed (vs. 12-15). It is a Cushite who saved the life of Jeremiah (Jer. 38:7-13). As a result of this, his life was saved when Jerusalem was invaded (Jeremiah 39:16-18). A Black man saving the life of Jeremiah would not be surprising to Jeremiah because it is he who mentions them in Jeremiah 13:23. The woman the Book of Song of Solomon is centered around was a dark-skinned woman (Songs of Sol. 1:5). In Acts 13:1-2 we read of two black men; Simeon, called Niger (I am not referencing this to qualify the N-word as okay. Just focusing on disclosing history), and Lucius of Cyrene, who were leading teachers in the church of Antioch. These men, along with Barabas, anointed the Apostle Paul for ministry.

Working across ethnic lines was the most important agenda for the disciples after the death of Christ. He instructed them to “go and make disciples of all nations...; (Matt.28:19); and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria (Jews hated Samaritans), and to the ends of the earth” (all ethnic groups). (Acts 1:8). When the Lord returns, He will evaluate us for deeds done based on our spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 3:11-15) and He will separate sheep from goats (Matthew 25:31-33), not based on our ethnicity. God never intended for any race to have a more significant place in Biblical or human history (Galatians 3:26-29).

We recognize that differences in the various cultures still exist, and the stains of the past may sometimes persist. When the standard is clear and our love for God is sure, then we can and must progress; “If anyone says, I love God, yet hates his brother, he is a Liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot Love God who he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20-21) True disciples of Christ are to love as water is to water, inseparable (John 13:34-35). We need godly love to solve the problems of racism in our world today. “*And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*” (1 Corinthians 13:3)

Racism is adverse against the nature of God and the agenda of God for mankind (Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 3:9-12; John 3:16; Acts 1:8; 1 John 4:7-14; 1 Peter 2:9-10). His agenda must be ours.



UPCOMING Events



COVID-19 Q & A With Dr. Judy TODAY 10:00 a.m. Main Sanctuary
Our very own Dr. Judith Campbell (Dr. Judy) will answer all of your questions about Covid-19, the vaccines, quarantine times, safety of the vaccines with your children and more on **Feb. 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary**. See you there! Watch the interview between Pastor Cannings and Dr. Judy on our YouTube channel here <https://youtu.be/BPwAZyMsiOE>



Women of Grace Ministry Resource Workshop Sat., March 5th 9:00-11:00 a.m.
The Women of Grace Ministry will host a Resource Workshop to empower women to learn, grow, connect and get the resources they need to get to the next level in their spiritual, emotional, mental, professional or wellness journey. Do more, learn more, get more and be more! Join us and get to the next level God has intended for you! **Register on the events page of our website!**



Usher & Greeter Ministry
The Greeters and Ushers Ministry Needs You! The Ushers serve faithfully at Sunday Worship Service, Bible Study, Funerals, and Special Events. Join us to welcome and greet family and guests with enthusiasm and love! We are always looking for more volunteers who have a heart for people from all walks of life to join this team. If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Lula Hays at lulahays1@yahoo.com**



Youth Spring Break Bash March 19th-20th
We will be having the Youth Spring Break Bash! March 19-20th 7th—12th Grades are welcome to attend. Come out to serve at the Christian Outreach Center @ 9 am on the 19th followed by food and bowling and on the 20th Kickball Game @ 2pm with the LEGIT Young Adults, meet at Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org or (832) 265-6977



Get FIT with LEGIT—March 19th 10:00 a.m.
Come get fit with L.E.G.I.T. March 19th 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Bring your sweats and motivation! Dean'na Mitchell will host a fitness class for L.E.G.I.T. in the Legacy sanctuary. Water and a light lunch provided. Q&A will follow in which you can ask questions about making a commitment to your physical wellbeing. For more information, contact **Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org or Moniqua Glasper at 832.977.9674.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

**“No One’s Slave”
Philemon 1:10-16**

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

Call to Discipleship

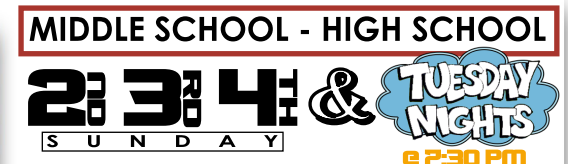
Please remain seated at this time

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



No One's Slave

Philemon 1:10-16

Dr. Paul Cannings

A. Freedom (vs. 10-12):

1. This appeal will never change because Philemon is a believer and yet he is a slave owner. He probably has other slaves following the custom of his day as a Roman.
2. Paul wants Philemon to know that God's divine nature has been inputted into Onesimus's life because he has accepted Christ into his life. In other words no matter who Onesimus may be socially, the Lord saved him in the same manner He saved his slave master. There was no distinction (Acts 10:34; Galatians 3:16-29; Ephesians 2:17-21).
3. Even though Philemon is a true man of God it took Paul's life and teaching to bring Onesimus to Christ.
 - a) GOD SAVED ONESIMUS LIKE HE SAVED EVERYONE (ACTS 10:34) BECAUSE IN GOD'S EYES NO ONE IS A SLAVE TO ANYONE, BUT HIM (LUKE 17:5-10; WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE; 1 COR. 6:20; 7:23) NOT EVEN OUR OWN FLESH (ROMANS 6:12-14). WE ARE ALL ONE (GAL. 3:26-29).
4. Paul admits that Onesimus was not productive as a slave. So, there is reason for Philemon to struggle with his return, then having to forgive him, then having to love him not as a slave but as a fellow brother (along with all the free people in the church) in Christ.
5. Onesimus, being a new creation, the Holy Spirit fully in him, made him profitable for the kingdom of God and for Philemon's household. Paul, the apostle of God, saw the fruit of the Spirit in Onesimus firsthand.
6. The slave issue between Philemon and Onesimus needs to be addressed, even though Onesimus is now a believer and has been growing powerfully. Both had to confront the issue of slavery and the issue of not being useful as a slave.
7. Paul wants Philemon to know that the kind of man he had seen in Onesimus has created such a strong affection for Onesimus that Paul's heart goes with him.

B. Freed to Serve (vs. 13):

1. When we reflect on how committed Paul was to complete the mission Christ gave him, we think of how he treasured Onesimus's spiritual growth and faithful service. This highlights the kind of work the Lord had done in Onesimus life. Paul wanted to use him rather than send him back.
2. Paul wanted Philemon to know that this once useless slave has not only grown spiritually but he has also grown in his ability to manage the ministry of serving Paul, so that Paul can accomplish the task the Lord has given him. Onesimus had become a great administrator.

C. Accept as a Brother (vs 14):

1. Paul willfully decided not to do the least thing, absolutely not one thing, that would interfere with the will of Philemon.
2. Since Paul now knows how well Onesimus is doing; Paul infers that once Philemon understands this, he would most certainly do what pleases God especially since Onesimus is blessing to others.
3. Onesimus' new character would certainly create a benevolent heart in Philemon.
4. The benevolent heart that Onesimus' productive faithful service can create in Philemon needs not to be created from distress or pressure created by Paul.
5. Knowing that Onesimus is a genuine believer, and a true servant of Christ, should move Philemon, who ('I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints of every good thing that in you for Christ' sake..." vs. 4-7) himself is a sincere believer to willingly accept him, before the church and his household, as a brother in Christ.

D. Equal (vs. 15-16):

1. Paul believes that Onesimus meeting Paul during his imprisonment, being born again and developing into spiritually productive servant was all orchestrated by the Lord.
2. When Onesimus returns, because the Lord now has full charge of his life, he longer needs a master. He no longer needs to be treated in the lowest manner a human being could ever experience. He is now more than a person who only job was to do what a slave master requires.
3. Onesimus is now a person who is dear to all the brethren and because of how he has grown and the servant heart he has he would be beloved by those who make up the Christian community: those committed to the purposes of the Lord.
4. Just like Onesimus became and extremely valuable to Paul he would be the same to Philemon.
5. Onesimus' reunion with Philemon would be beloved both as human beings and as believers who submit their lives to the Lordship of Christ. What seems to be insinuated is, Onesimus would be his friend and his brother not a slave.

**KINGDOM BUILDERS
MEN'S MINISTRY
BIBLE STUDY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

THE LANDMINE OF IMMORALITY

BOOK STUDY OF "LANDMINES" BY CHARLES F. STANLEY

For More Information Contact James Thompson
at thompson929@gmail.com or at (281)851-6958

Houston Texas

LWFC KIDZ RODEO TRIP

THE LWFC KIDZ AGE 6 TO 6TH GRADE ARE GOING TO THE RODEO
SPRING BREAK WEEK
WED. MARCH 16TH 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION
NEED \$20 FOR LUNCH & EXTRA MONEY FOR RIDES & GAMES
REGISTER HERE AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3HEPCVO](https://bit.ly/3HEPCVO)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Pam Collier & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Helen Ward-low & family, Vivian Buckner & family, the family of George Kiel, Kathy Burrell & family, Beverly Austin & family, Leo and Daphne Banks & family, and Susie Farley & 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, and Rutha Patrick.

**NO ONE'S
SLAVE**

PHILEMON 1:10-16

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