

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 10, 2022

Accept The Pardon of Christ

A certain atheistic barber was conversing with a minister as they rode through the slums of a large city. The unbeliever said, "If there is a loving God, how can He permit all this poverty, suffering, and violence among these people? Why doesn't He save them from all of this?"

Just then a disheveled homeless man crossed the street. He was unshaven and filthy; with long scraggly hair hanging down his neck. The minister pointed to him and said, "You are a barber and claim to be a good one, so why do you allow that man to go unkempt and unshaven?" "Why, why..." The barber stuttered, "he never gave me a chance to fix him up." "Exactly," said the minister. "Men are what they are because they reject God's help."

God has done more. He allows us to hear the gospel on radio, television, and has established churches all over the city. Even though many people hear Him they do not accept His free gift.

"In the year 1829, a Philadelphia man named George Wilson robbed the U.S. Mail, killing someone in the process. Wilson was arrested, brought to trial, found guilty, and sentenced to be hung. Some friends intervened on his behalf and were finally able to obtain a pardon for him from President Andrew Jackson. But, when he was informed of this, George Wilson refused to accept the pardon!"

"The sheriff was unwilling to enact the sentence – for how could he hang a pardoned man? An appeal was sent to President Jackson. The perplexed President turned to the United States Supreme Court to decide the case. Chief Justice Marshall ruled that a pardon is a piece of paper, the value of which depends on its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that a person under the sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is then not a pardon. George Wilson must be hung. So, George Wilson was executed, although his pardon lay on the sheriff's desk. So, too, do some of us reject the gift of salvation by refusing the pardon thereby offered (Quoted from "Illustrations for Biblical Preaching" by Michael P. Green ©2000) Christ's death paid the price for all our sins, and His resurrection provides us victory over the power of sin. The gift is available to all because all have been pardoned. It is a free gift available to all who accept Christ and what He has provided. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)



UPCOMING Events



Prayer Vigil—Tues., Apr. 12th—12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
The Prayer Ministry will hold it's quarterly Prayer Vigil Tuesday, April 12th at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Pray with us, Intercede on behalf of your family, friends and community, Connect, and Grow on your spiritual and prayer journey. Join us in-person, on Facebook or on YouTube! For more information, contact Tomitra Wiley at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



EASTER/RESURRECTION WEEKEND

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE "RESURRECT ME"

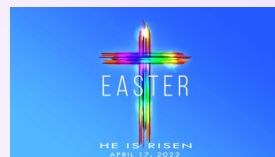
FRIDAY—6:00 p.m.
Presented by the LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams



GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Free Food, Fun, Games, Music, Bouncers, An Easter Egg Hunt & More!

We will also have a special Law Enforcement Appreciation



EASTER/RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunrise—6:00 a.m.
Morning—8:30 a.m.
Contemporary—11:00 a.m.



Center For Christian Living—Apr. 19th - May 24th
"The Encounter With Jesus" begins April 19th -May 24th. Bible Studies and classes will be every Tuesday at noon and 7 p.m. Come join us as we obtain a deeper understanding of Jesus and how He uses the problems in our lives and turns them into testimonies for His glory. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living or contact Nord Bullock at nordbullock@yahoo.com



Marriage Retreat—April 29th & 30th
The Covenant Keeper's Marriage Ministry will host a Marriage Retreat **April 29th from 7-9 p.m. and April 30th from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** in the Legacy Sanctuary. The theme is No Grudges, Fight Fair and Forgive Quickly. Cost is \$100 per couple (\$50 per person). Parent's Day included on Sat. April 30th from 8 am—6 pm. **Register at** <https://bit.ly/3D98vRE> Contact Sherri or Terri Randle for more information at lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

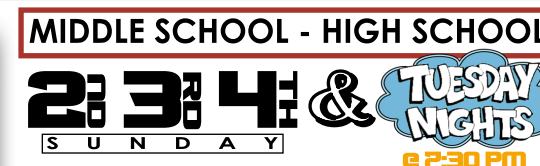
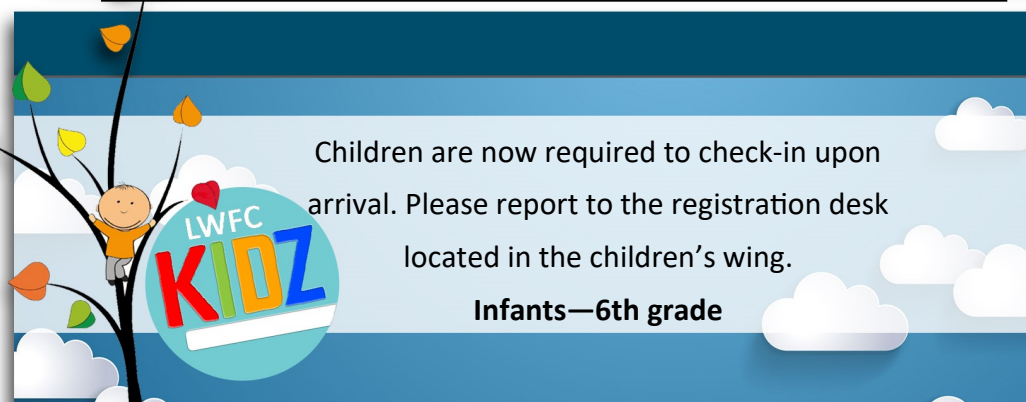
Special Music

"Delivered"
Romans 5:9-11

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Delivered
Romans 5:9-11

A. At Peace With God (v. 9):

- 1. We were powerless to overcome sinful habits, and thoughts because we lack the spiritual and physical ability to do so.
- 2. It was not convenient for the Lord to come down and die on the cross, but it was definitely necessary because of the condition we were in while doomed for hell. His timing was perfect (Gal. 4:4) and His love blessed us.
- 3. Christ understood that He would have to do something, because He is life (John 10:10). He had never experienced death and would never again. Even though He understood how horrible it is, God would have to turn His back on Him, He still died for us.
- 4. Christ totally knew who He was dying for. It is demonstrated before the cross and while He was on the cross. What took place at the cross vividly depicted the ungodliness of mankind, mankind at it's worst.
- 5. Even though a person may be committed to live in conformity to the standard of God, most people are still unwilling to die for them.
- 6. Because a good man has a good heart and is always seeking to make everyone around them productive, this is a person people may consider dying for.
- 7. If these two circumstances are only possibilities there is no one who would die for a helpless person who is a sinner; only Christ would do that.

B. Saved by Christ’s Death (v. 10):

- 1. We once had no desire to do anything the Lord asked us to do. If we were pushed, we sometimes became hateful or even hostile to the person who kept bringing up the gospel. Even after we were saved, we were hostile towards God. (Romans 8:5-8)
- 2. Christ came to His own people, who were supposed to be looking forward to seeing the Messiah, but they did not receive Him (John 1:11-13). The crucifixion is their brutal rejection of Him.
- 3. Christ took on the judgment due to mankind (even when we were hostile towards Christ). He paid the full price of sin. Peace between God and man was established (the anger of God towards sin was satisfied) for all those who accept Christ (Ephesians 2:13-19).
- 4. Because of God's salvific process, we now have a friendship with the Lord God. The ministry of the Holy Spirit makes this possible (John 15:1-13). Added to this, angels surround us (Hebrews 1:14). We are in Christ (Ephesians 2:6) who is in God (Colossians 3:1-4). As a result, we live in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). We are totally re-established in our relationship with the Lord God.
- 5. Christ allowed death to completely take Him over so that God momentarily separated Himself from Christ (Matthew 27:46) and Christ died. Separation from God is death because God is life.
- 6. This word reconciliation means that God laid aside His wrath, because of Christ death, and recreated a renewed friendship with all those who genuinely accept Christ death and resurrection (Romans 10:9; “and believe in your heart”).
- 7. Because we are delivered from sin in Christ, it has no power over us (Romans 6:5-7; 8:12-17) because the Spirit of God lives inside of us (John 14:16-17; Titus 3:4-8). He reminds us of scripture (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15), convicts us of sins (John 16:7-11), guides us to walk in the truth (John 16:13; 1 John 1:5-7), prays for us when we are hurting (Romans 8:26) and provides us the strength to overcome satan's attacks (1 John 4:4). This is why Philippians 2:12-13 says, "for it is God who is at work in you...." (Ephesians 2:10).
- 8. Christ lived through every trial that a person can be subjected to and did not sin (1 Peter 2:21-25) so that when we experience the gift of life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit our suffering perfects us (James 1:2-4) manifesting the life of Christ in us as “we no longer live...” (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).

C. Confident and Blessed (v. 11):

- 1. The victory of Christ’s death, our new life and friendship with God provides is the confidence that we can continuously face life as conquerors (Romans 8:31-39).

C. Confident and Blessed (v. 11) continued:

- 2. The only way we can maintain our confidence is to continually trust in the power and authority of our Lord, because Christ was fully human, He can sympathize with us (Jesus), and because He is and was always Holy, we can overcome sin (Romans 6:5-7). We can accomplish anything in this life and be successful “through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 6:11-18; Philippians 4:13).
- 3. We have obtained, forever, restoration with God so that we experience the Lord's favor, being richly bestowed upon us (Romans 10:12; 1 Timothy 6:17; Hebrews 10:35). This is because God's disposition towards us, as a result of Christ's death, is to be our friend (John 15:13).

SAVE THE
date

Easter WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH ~ 6:00 P.M
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

LWFC DRAMA MINISTRY & CREATIVE JAMS PRESENTS
"RESURRECT ME"

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH ~ 11:00 A.M - 2:00 P.M
GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL

FUN, FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, BOUNCERS & MORE

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH
EASTER SERVICES

SUNRISE ~ 6:00 A.M.
MORNING ~ 8:30 A.M.
CONTEMPORARY ~ 11:00 A.M.

(281) 260-7402
WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

FOLLOW US & SUBSCRIBE ON
SOCIAL MEDIA @LWFCHOUSTON

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Rashaud Hudson & family, Dorcas Blackmon & family, Pamela Farris & family, Joseph Dorsey & family, Mary and O'Neal Stovall & family, Tony Hall & family, and the family of Alonzo Barnes, Margaret Baptiste & family, Pamela Faris & family, Scott Hope & family, and Mignette Dorsey & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick,

Palm Sunday

Delivered

ROMANS 5:9-11