

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 17, 2022

Welcome to
Resurrection Sunday!
Jesus: The One Answer



Do you know of anyone who, despite owning everything, would become poor so that you could become rich spiritually and physically? (Luke 9:58) Has anyone ever so loved you that they would fight against your enemy even if it cost them their life? Has anyone done everything possible to give you the inner strength to overcome those desires that can harm you or cause you to miss your blessings? Has anyone ever fought for you each day so that your enemy does not take your life, something we know he is seeking to do everyday (Revelation 12:10-12)? Do you know of anyone who goes before God everyday so that God does not allow you to experience more than you can bear? Has anyone ever died for you so that you can live forever in heaven? No matter how many good or powerful friends you may have, your answers are predictably, no.

"Human heroism has performed deeds of daring valor in the heat and excitement of the conflict, from which, have been foreseen in calmer hours, it would have shrunk dismay. The voyager will tempt the sea when its waves are calm and its aspects smiling: could he anticipate the terrors of the storm and the shipwreck, nothing would induce him to embark. But the Lord Jesus, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, had before his prescient gaze, amidst the heights of glory, all the darkness of that sea of sorrows through which he must pass, as clearly as when the waters went over his soul; yet was 'his love stronger than death: many waters could not quench it.' (From New Cyclopaedia of Prose Illustrations. Biblesoft Formatted Electronic Database Copyright © 2015 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.) 'Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13)."

Our enemy,"the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour," while Jesus came so that we can "have life, and have it abundantly." (1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10)

"...how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will." (Hebrews 2:3-4; NASU)

JESUS! One person answers all the above questions only because "God so loved....." (John 3:16).

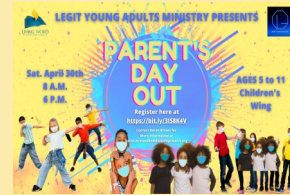
UPCOMING Events



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



**Parent's Day Out
April 30th 8 am– 6 pm**
Parents: Relax and enjoy a day off from the kiddos, sponsored by the LEGIT Young Adult Ministry. The children will enjoy a day of fun activities from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Register on the **events page of our website** or for more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Men's Bible Study—Apr. 23rd 9 a.m.
The Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry will have its monthly Bible Study on Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 a.m. They will be continuing their study of "Landmines" By Charles F. Stanley. For more information visit the **events page of our website** or contact **James Thompson** at thompson929@gmail.com



600 Club 3-Month Giving Campaign
Living Word Family, please give to the **600 Club Giving Campaign** over the next three months so we can replace everything lost in the recent fire, including the lawnmower tractor trailer which keeps our grounds in compliance with city codes. Also we will improve the parking lot at the Christian Outreach Center, which has been feeding over one hundred families 3-5 times a week throughout the pandemic. To give, use the envelopes and boxes around the church or give online by clicking on the give tab and choosing the **600 Club** dropdown in the menu. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music
"Saved"
Romans 5:18-21

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

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Saved

Romans 5:18-21

A. Even Though (v. 18):

1. Adam's decision willfully violated the Word of God, causing him to stand guilty before the Lord God. His guilty status removed him from the presence of God.
2. God responded directly to Adam's sin by placing judgment on all mankind. We all lived under this judgment because sin ruled.
3. Just like Adam totally owned the decision he made to violate the Word of God, so God decisively "demonstrates His own love towards us" (Romans 5:8) even while we were helpless, ungodly and sinners, Christ did everything needed to restore us to God.
4. His righteousness was expressed when He perfectly obeyed the will of God. Through this second Adam, now we can have the ability to live up to the standards of the Lord God.
5. Our salvation allows God to see us as righteous in His eyes because the Holy Spirit is poured into us (Titus 3:4-8). This allows us to be at peace with God (Ephesians 2:17).
6. Christ did not just give us eternal life by saving us, but He also provided us the inner ability to become just like Him (Galatians 2:2; Ephesians 3:14-21) and therefore experience all the blessings the Lord has in store for us.
7. The direct result of righteousness is being imputed into us, making us righteous before God; we now can have "life and life abundantly." (John 10:10).
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 so that "we no longer live..." (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21). This also blesses us eternally to be rewarded with the "Crown of Life." (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). The direct result of His oath is the powerful work of His life in us so that we have life abundantly (John 10:10). His life in us is our salvation.

B. Made Brand New (v. 19):

1. Adam intentionally disobeyed God.
2. God gave us a freewill just like He did for Adam. If we were placed in the same position as Adam we would have done the same thing.
3. Christ, who repeatedly said He "must be about His Father's business" possessed a positive, responsive attitude towards submitting to the will of His Father.
4. Because Christ demonstrated that His mindset was to decisively obey God, those who are saved have this same nature imputed into them. This nature through the ministry of the Holy Spirit provides us the ability to live righteously. This righteous life (not perfect life; a life committed to obey the will of God) is what brings the greatest blessings (Psalm 112; 128; Proverbs 24:3-5).

C. Abundant Life (vs. 20-21):

1. The Word of God exposed, because of our old nature, made clear how willful we can be about obeying the Word of God.
2. Where our will to disobey God abounded, Christ death and resurrection provided us His unlimited love so we don't destroy ourselves.
3. God's abounding love blessed us to experience God's presence because it blessed us to stand guiltless before God. (Romans 8:1-2).
4. This unending experience of life can only be experienced when we are fully surrendered to trust God through trials as He refines us (life here means experiencing the "Crown of Life;" James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
5. In order for sin to no longer reign over us, Christ must reign as Lord in our lives so that we do not live under the influence of sin that is still in our flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit who powerfully lives inside of us. It is His presence that empowers us to execute the righteous standards of God.
6. When Jesus Christ reigns in our lives, we become just like Him (Galatians 2:20).



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WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Ladies!!! We look forward to sharing a morning of prayer, fellowship and worship, In your honor at Living Word Fellowship Church

WHEN: MAY 7TH
WHERE: LEGACY SANCTUARY
TIME: 9:00 AM

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/37UD8FT](https://bit.ly/37UD8FT)
Men's Ministry will serve breakfast

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



SAVED

ROMANS 5:18-21