

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. Biblsoft Formatted Electronic Database Copyright © 2015 by Biblsoft, 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!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Contrast"
Romans 5:18-21
Pierre Cannings

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

Call to Discipleship

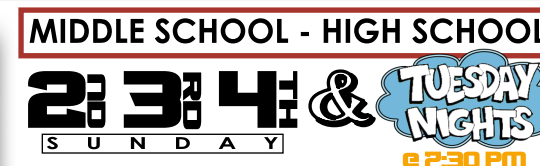
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



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

Infants—6th grade



Contrast
Romans 5:18-21
Pierre Cannings



I. Transgression vs. Righteousness (v. 18)

- a. One Transgression -ordinarily of offenses against God, collectively
 - i. Result Condemnation - **judicial pronouncement upon a guilty person, condemnation, punishment, penalty** *there is no death-sentence for those who are in Christ Jesus Ro 8:1.*
 - 1. To All Men
- b. One Act of Righteousness - **an action that meets expectations as to what is right or just, righteous deed**
 - i. Justification of Life-*v found in the right, be free of charges be acquitted, be pronounced and treated as*
 - 1. Just as the one sin of Adam brought condemnation, so also did the one righteous act of Christ bring justification. Just as condemnation spread to all, so also is the divine acquittal offered to all.
 - 2. that is, they relate to the law court and the act of acquitting or vindicating someone. It has to do with the innocence or virtue of a person.
 - 3. Justification is by grace alone. Rooted in the nature of God, it is also made available through the work of Christ as God’s gift.
 - 4. Justification by faith is set primarily against the background of Jewish legalism and its attempts to make the law the basis of salvation

II. Disobedience vs. Obedience v. 19

- a. Disobedience - **refusal to listen and so be disobedient, unwillingness to hear**
 - i. Made Sinners- humanity; ‘the one’, Adam) *were constituted sinners (=were exposed to being treated as sinners*
 - 1. general sense of “sinners” (as in 5:8), but it is quite possible that Paul intended to recall the more specific sense in which it was then current within Judaism to denote those ignorant of or disobedient to the law (see on 3:7),
 - ii. As in v. 15 we are to understand “the many” in terms of all who are in Adam (everyone who is born into the human family) and all who are in Christ (everyone who has been born into the family of God by faith in Christ
- b. Obedience - obedience to God and God’s commands
 - i. Obedience –
 - 1. Christ’s death as an “act of obedience” and as a “righteous act” (v 18), both stressing that whereas Adam acted in breach of a divine ruling, Christ acted in accordance with God’s will revealed in the law (cf. again 3:24–26).
 - 2. We take it that by Christ’s δικαίωμα Paul means not just His atoning death but the obedience of His life as a whole, His loving God with all His heart and soul and mind and strength, and His neighbour with complete sincerity, which is the righteous conduct which God’s law requires.
 - ii. Made Righteous - **justification, vindication, acquittal**
 - 1. The righteousness of which Paul spoke is a right standing before God (cf. 2 Cor 5:21). It is imputed by God as a result of faith

III. Law vs. Grace vs. 20-21

- a. Law- law that Moses received from God and is the standard according to which membership in the people of Israel is determined
 - i. Transgression Increased
 - a. Increased- After all, God gave the Israelites an extended code of legislation with the expectation that it would guide their life and conduct. The answer is that law was brought in so that the offense might increase. Law actually makes wrongdoing all the worse.
 - b. So the law was given in order that πλεονάσῃ τὸ παράπτωμα, in order that in one people (for their own sake and also for the sake of all others) sin might be known as sin.
 - c. Later Paul would write that apart from the law we would not have known the nature of sin (Rom 7:7; cf. Gal 3:19). The law was never intended to provide salvation but to convince people of their need for it. Law increased sin
 - d. He may have meant, as in vv 13–14, that the law increases sin by turning sin into transgression—increase in the sense of intensify, by making visible as sin, or make worse by injecting the dimension of guilt

III. Law vs. Grace vs. 20-21 (continued)

- e. He could also think of sin as being increased quantitatively, with the law being seen actually to provoke sin, just as the command of Gen 2:16 could be said to have provoked Adam’s transgression by encouraging him to see that which had been forbidden as desirable. This is a contentious line of thought he would develop later on (7:7–12). But more likely here Paul is recalling the actual effect of the law on his own people—their pride in the law which caused them to identify righteousness too much with distinctively Jewish actions By letting their dependence on the law obscure the more direct and fundamental dependence on God they were no better off than the Gentiles (chap. 2); indeed they were much worse off, since having the law should have made them all the more conscious of their condition as sinners than Gentiles who have not the law (cf. 3:20).
- f. but Paul may also intend to imply that the law’s purpose (to increase the trespass) is a lesser role than that of grace, or indeed that the law’s entry was later and more temporary than grace’s
- 2. Reigned - **to exercise authority at a royal level**
 - a. In Death
 - i. And always through Jesus Christ as Lord: if the agency of Adam’s trespass gave free rein to sin and death, it is precisely the force which continues to come through the one man who defeated sin and death, which sustains the believer against their continuing claims upon him and which will prove finally triumphant.
 - ii. The first act of the human drama ends in darkest tragedy—sin reigning with death the final word. The gospel of Christ for Paul is that that power has been broken: God’s grace has more than matched the intensification of sin through the law and so given sure promise of life beyond the cold grasp of death
- a. Grace Abound
 - i. Grace- Grace that which one grants to another, the action of one who volunteers to do not otherwise obligatory.
 - a. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.
 - b. In the apostle’s mind, grace is found not only in justification by faith; it also means that those whom God elects are chosen without regard to their religious zeal. Saving faith is also regarded as a gift of God: in Eph 2:9 the whole process of salvation through faith is a gift of grace; Acts 18:27
- 2. Abound - **to be very high on a scale of amount, be in great excess**
- 3. Reigned -**to exercise authority at a royal level**
 - a. Righteousness
 - b. Eternal Life
 - i. Jesus Christ

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.



Romans 5:18–21