

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 3, 2022

Which Basin Will You Choose?

The death of Christ is the biggest news that has ever been provided to mankind. Because the rapture is for sure and standing before our Maker is certain (2 Corinthians 5:6-10). Christ's death and resurrection is not only good news, but it exposes the depth of His obedience to God. How far does our obedience take us? In a world that is dangerous will we go as far as the believers who were beheaded by Isis? The Apostle Paul way back in his time said that *"the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16). How far does our obedience take us?

I do understand that our daily lives can be difficult. There is the pressure of schedules, bills, health, relationships, work, etc. The constant appeal of all these things can wear a person out. Satan is doing his best to devour the saints of God with life's worries and cares (Luke 8:14; 1 Peter 5:7-9; Revelation 12:10). Even though this is true, our obedience to God can carry us through issues, rather than taking a commonsense approach to resolving issues (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Bible instructs us to; *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider (that is to examine carefully) how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* (Hebrew 10:23-25) We would all stand strong if we remember; *"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."* (1 Cor 12:26-27) Solomon explains to us how important it is to be a supportive body (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Bruce Thielemann, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, told of a conversation with a member of his flock who said, "You preachers talk a lot about 'do unto others,' but when you get right down to it, it comes down to basin theology." Thielemann asked, "Basin theology? What's that?" The layman said, "Remember what Pilate did when he had the chance to acquit Jesus? He called for a basin and washed his hands of the whole thing. But Jesus, the night before His death, called for a basin and proceeded to wash the feet of the disciples. It all comes down to basin theology: Which one will you use?" (Craig Larson, Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching from Leadership Journal).

A believer stands tall when they are willing to go as far as God commands, and as low as service to God demands (Philippians 2:1-5). Christ fulfilled God's commands because He said, "He must be about His Father's business"; as a result, the cross was not too low. Maybe this is why Paul says, *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13; 3:7-11)



UPCOMING Events



Leadership Training—Sat. Apr. 9th—8:30 a.m.
Calling all Elders, Deacons, Ministers, Ministry Leaders, and Ministry Coordinators, attend Leadership Training with our own Dr. Paul Cannings. Breakfast will be served. Come prepared to learn and advance the work in your ministry areas for the next quarter! **Register Today at <https://bit.ly/35qK6u8>**



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



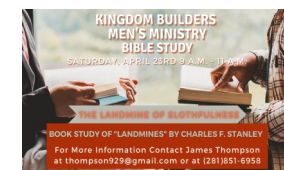
EASTER/RESURRECTION WEEKEND
FRIDAY—6:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service "Resurrect Me" Presented by the LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams

SATURDAY—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Good News Festival
Free Food, Fun, Games, Bouncers & a Law Enforcement Special Appreciation

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



Kingdom Builders Men's Bible Study—Apr. 23rd
Come and join us at 9:00 a.m. as we go through the Book 'Landmines' by Charles F. Stanley. Learn how to avoid the hidden dangers that get in the way of the believer experiencing God's blessings. For More information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

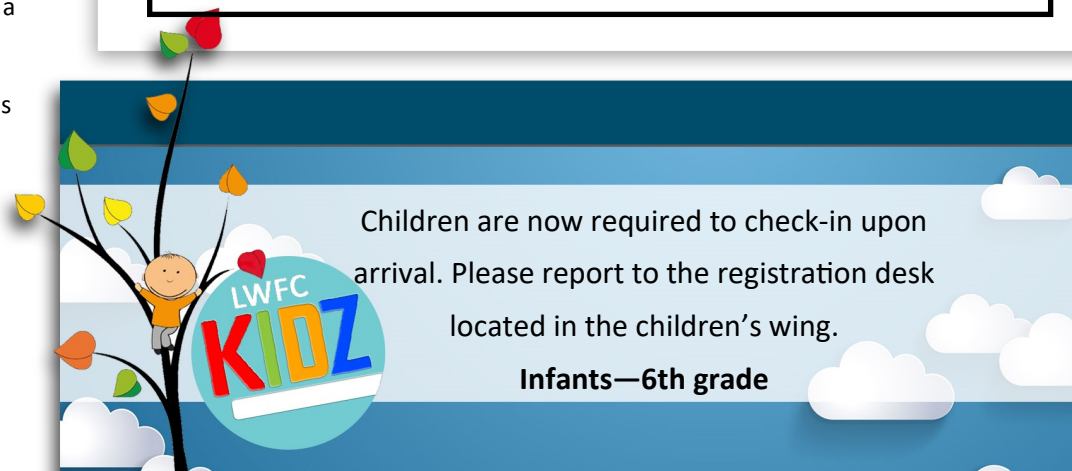
"Oh...So Loved"
Romans 6:6-8

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

Call to Discipleship

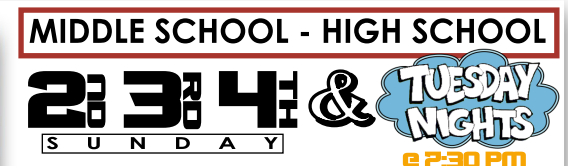
Please remain seated at this time

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



Oh... So, Loved
Romans 6:6-8

A. Undeserved (v. 6):

1. We were powerless to overcome our sinful habits and our 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 with no power to overcome the effects of our sin nature, 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 and life abundantly (John 10:10). He had never experienced death and would never again. Even though He understood how horrible it is and that because He will take on sin, God would have to turn His back on Him, He still did what goes against His nature to save us from ever dying again (2 Corinthians 5:6).
4. Christ totally knew whom He was dying for. It is demonstrated before the cross and while He was on the cross. His response to the thief, who was at one point mocking Him, and those before Him who mocked Him and crucified Him (Luke 23:34, 39-43), vividly depicted the ungodliness of mankind. God's love was explicitly exposed because man's ungodliness was at its worst from the time Christ was arrested.
5. Even though a person may be committed to live in conformity to the standard of God, most are people still unwilling to die for them.
6. A good man is described as someone who seeks to do what benefits the lives of others so that their actions please the Lord. They have a good heart and are always seeking to make everyone around them productive. Because of this, a person may consider dying for such a person.
7. If these two circumstances are only possibilities there is no one who would die for a helpless person who is a sinner, but Christ did.

B. Love, So Amazing (v. 8):

1. God's willful decision to send Christ to die for us was totally something the godhead decided to do. It is in no way initiated by mankind. God through Christ provided for mankind's greatest need.
2. The love of God was graciously provided because we were continuously controlled by the sin nature willfully violating the will of God, having no desire to please God. We were lost in a sinful lifestyle while thinking it was good because of our successes or because we believed we were living in complete freedom. Sin held us in bondage while Satan deceived us to believe we were free to do what we wanted to do.
3. Christ seeing how lost we were, doomed for hell (Ephesians 2:11-19), powerless to free ourselves from the bondage of sin, made up His mind to die on Calvary's cross for us. His death paid the complete price of sin.

C. Together Forever (v. 9):

1. Christ's death on Calvary, totally not our effort, put us back in right standing with God. This becomes a reality when we accept the gift of salvation by believing in our hearts (Romans 10:9) that Christ did die and rose from the grave.
2. Our salvation allows God to see us as righteous in His eyes because the Holy Spirit is poured into us (Titus 3:4-8) sealing us in preparation for our entrance into the presence of God (Ephesians 1:13-14). This allows us to be at peace with God (Ephesians 2:17).
3. Salvation delivers us from the bondage of sin granting us the inner ability (Ephesians 3:14-21) to work out the brand-new creation that we become (2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 2:12-13).
4. Being in the nature of Christ, therefore being seen as righteous by God, causes God to not execute His passionate vengeance because of sin.

COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Marriage  Retreat

Friday, April 29th 7 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 30th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NO GRUDGES,
FIGHT FAIR
AND
FORGIVE
QUICKLY

Registration \$100
Kids Saturday Conference Included

REGISTER TODAY HERE AT
<https://bit.ly/3D98vRE>

Contact Sherri & Terry Randle at
lwfcmarriage@gmail.com

Friday Dinner
Saturday Breakfast
Lunch Included



LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

LEGIT YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY PRESENTS



PARENT'S DAY OUT

Sat. April 30th
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

AGES 5 to 11
Children's Wing

Register here at
<https://bit.ly/3IS8K4V>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Beatrice Williams & family, Patricia Harris & family, George Washington & family, Rashaud Hudson & family, Dorcas Blackmon & family, Pamela Farris & family, Joseph Dorsey & family, Mary and O'Neal Stovall & family, and Tony Hall & 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.

Oh... So Loved

Romans 6:6-8