

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 14, 2022

Abide In Me

Young people, many of you have great ambitions to become or achieve great things in your life and that is great!! This is great because it is good to live with great ambitions and to strive diligently to bring them to life. There is only one problem. If you achieve all your ambitions without a daily experience of growing in Christ, your accomplishments will only allow you to make a living.

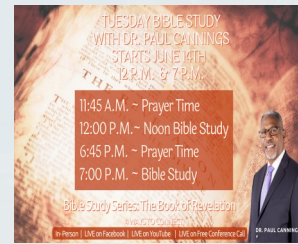
Experiencing inner peace, a love that never fails, a joy that surpasses understanding and the strength to endure all the problems you face, can only become a living reality when you invest time in experiencing Christ. "Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11; NASU) "I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has worked so that men should fear Him." (Eccl 3:14-15; NASU) Christ puts it this way in John 5:26;

"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself." Why is this so? Because in John 14:6; ".....I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me." The story is told of a father who went into a toy store to buy his son a Christmas present. The salesman showed him a new educational toy. It came unassembled, but no matter how the child put the pieces together, they wouldn't fit. You see, the toy was designed to teach the child how to deal with life. Such is the predicament of man without God. He is never able to put his life together because a life without Christ is a "life of futility."

John reminds us of this in John 15:5,7; "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you." Dream young people and work for your dreams. It is a blessing to be ambitious and be blessed with the ability to achieve them. Just remember "For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather fear God" (Eccl 5:7; Luke 12:31)



UPCOMING Events



BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY 12 NOON & 7 P.M.

Join Dr. Paul Cannings for Bible study on the Book of Revelation. There are three ways to join: in-person, Facebook or on YouTube. Prayer times are on Free Conference Call from 11:45 a.m.—12 noon and 6:45 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Call (978) 990-5374 Access Code: 1165799
Bible study notes are available at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



MEN'S MINISTRY—FAMILY MATTERS SAT. AUG. 20TH AT 9 A.M.

Join the Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry for their monthly Bible study and fellowship event. This month the topic is "Family Matters". For information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com



YOUTH MONTH 2022 ALL GOOD ROMANS 8:28

Our LWFC Kidz and Legacy Youth are excited about ministering this month, so please join us every Sunday in August at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services for special presentations. Stay connected for more information on the events page of our website.



**LWCA BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL
SPECIAL LIMITED PRICE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK**
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Back to School Special for Before and After School Care of \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either After or Before care. Yes, that's right only \$35 per week! Transportation included from select schools. For more information, call (713) 686-5538 or register at www.lwccademy.org



CHURCH BIZARRE— SUN. OCT. 2ND

Living Word Fellowship will be hosting a Church Bizarre on Oct. 2nd to showcase church ministries, services, and all of our volunteer opportunities. Leaders, coordinators and all who want to serve during this incredible event, scan the QR Code to the left or contact Jeffrey Allen for more information at jeffery.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Walk It Out"

Daniel 1:8, 17

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP
6:30 PM

Walk It Out Daniel 1:8, 17

A. Be Determined (vs. 8-9):

1. Daniel, setting his mind to only be committed to God's Word passionately seeks to understand what needs to be done and then with determination, works to allow himself to see it to completion.
2. Daniel purposed in his heart, based on Levitical law, to not ever make himself ceremonially unclean. Nothing Daniel did during the week would ever conflict with his commitment to live pure before God.
3. Daniel relentlessly did everything he could do to get the attention of those in charge so that they do not ask him to violate the Word of God.
4. Daniel relentlessly prayed to God and wanted to be acceptable before God.

B. God Has Your Back (v. 9):

1. The supreme God who rules the universe generously responded to Daniel's faith and trusted in Him.
2. Daniel's commitment caused God to decide to steadfastly demonstrate His kindness towards him. In other words, God obligated Himself to be loyal to Daniel by being benevolent towards him.
3. No matter how powerful the Babylonians were, God who is supreme over all, will supersede anything they can do to hurt Daniel by demonstrating His tender mercy towards him. This did not ensure that Daniel would not have troubles. It means that God would keep him in the midst of his troubles and rescue him (Psalm 34:17-19).
4. God's kindness and compassion to Daniel was executed by moving the heart of the commander to work with Daniel's recommendation. The pressure and need to act is still on Daniel.

C. God Makes A Way (v. 17):

1. The supreme God who rules the universe, generously put into Daniel and his friends the skill to decipher the most intricate issues with great wisdom and understanding.
2. God also properly prepared them to be prudent with their decisions so that they could provide practical applications to the complex issues they experienced.
3. God blessed Daniel and his friends to provide impeccable advice to the king.
4. Daniel and his friends, with brilliancy, are able to distinguish between good and evil. These four young men, because of their undeterred commitment to the Lord, would rise to the top of all those who served the king. God now infiltrated the Babylonian kingdom with His righteousness.
5. These young men's decision to put their lives in God's hands was all God needed to pour into them the ability and strength to powerfully influence the course of a nation. It did not mean they were not placed into a fire or a den of lions, but what it meant was that their trials when combined with who God designed them to be, became a hallmark for change.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Jenny Dangerfield & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Pastor & Bobbie Lawrence & family, and Doris Myles & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptists, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, and Betty Goode, Kevin Carey, Latifah Brown, and Evelyn Harvey.



Walk It Out

DANIEL 1:8, 17