

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 28, 2022

Nature & Transforming Love

The Civil War had just ended, and the opportunistic scalawags were busy lording it over their fellow southerners. A hot-blooded contingency of die-hard former rebels gained an audience with President Lincoln. His gentle, friendly manner soon thawed the ice, and the southerners left with a new respect for their old foe. A northern congressman approached the president and criticized him for “befriending the enemy,” suggesting that instead of befriending them he should have had them shot for the traitors they were. Lincoln smiled and replied, “Am I not destroying my enemies by making them my friends?” (Green, Michael. Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Baker Book House, 1989. Page 157).

“While still a young boy, a certain Christian formed the habit of praying beside his bed before he went to sleep. Later, when he joined the army, he kept up this practice, though he became an object of mockery and ridicule in the barracks. One night, as he knelt to pray after a long, weary march, one of his tormentors took off his muddy boots and threw them at him one at a time, hitting him on each side of his head. The Christian said nothing, took the persecutor’s boots, put them beside the bed, and continued to pray. The next morning, when the other soldier woke up, he found his polished and shined boots sitting beside his own bed. It so affected him that he asked for forgiveness and after a time became a Christian.” (Green, Michael. Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Baker Book House, 1989. Page 157).

Believers: allow God's love to bless you (John 15:9-14). Allow God's mind, explained through His Word, to guide you, transform you, and provide you with inner peace (Romans 12:2; John 16:13; Colossians 3:15-16). Allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you (John 16:7), and mature you (Galatians 5:22-26), so that as you are blessed, God is always glorified daily (Matthew 6:9-13).

Philippians 4:8-9 states, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you."

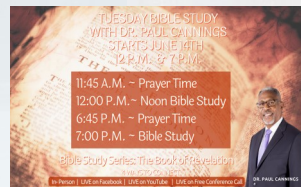
Stay focused!!



UPCOMING Events



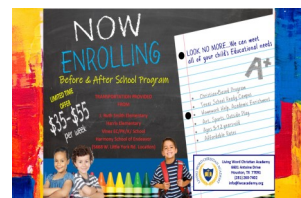
PRAYER VIGIL—SEPT. 13TH 12 P.M. & 7 P.M.
Living Word family join us for prayer and praise at our quarterly Prayer Vigil. There will be 3 ways to join: In-Person, on YouTube, and on Facebook at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Bring your prayer requests for the start of the school year and intercede on behalf of family and friends. Also praise God for all that He has brought us through in these pandemic times. For more information email **Tomitra Wiley** or **Bernadette Bullock** at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



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



MISSIONS MONTH 2022—SEPTEMBER
Living Word, our Mission Ministry is impacting lives all over the world. In the month of September, learn the **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW and WHYS of MISSIONS!** Learn about our projects in Belize, Rwanda, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Maarten, our Urban Missions Ministry efforts and more! Visit our tables in the foyer. Give to these projects, sign up to volunteer, and find out more information on the Missions page of our website here at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions or contact **Valarie Miller** at valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWCA IS NOW ENROLLING—\$85 PER WEEK BEFORE/AFTER CARE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Back to School Special of \$85 per week for the full day program ages 18 months—4 years old. Before and After School Care ages 5-12 years-old, \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either Before or After care. Transportation included from select schools. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at www.lwcacademy.org



CHURCH BAZAAR— SUN. OCT. 2ND
Living Word Fellowship will be hosting a Church Bazaar 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

“Recover”

Psalms 51: 10-17

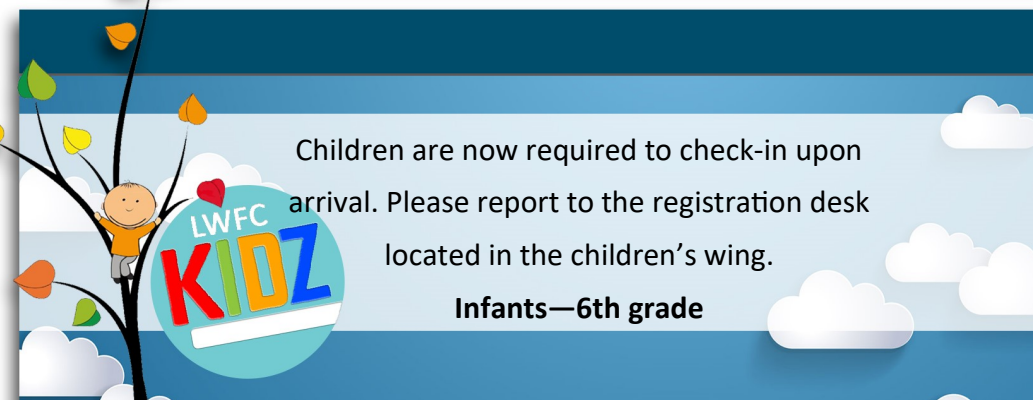
Assistant Pastor Pierre Cannings

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Recover
Psalms 51:10-17

- I. Create vs. 10-11**
- a. Create - making - create in the Is. 41:20, 65:17
 - i. A clean Heart O’ God
 - 1. “brings forth something new and astonishing it is a bold one for a transformation which could be accomplished only by divine power and a work on the order of the first creation of the world “None but God can create either a new heart or a new earth
 - 2. Clean - Clean - ethically clean make white = purify (ethical) Dn. 11:35; (2), of moral purity sense of transform,
 - 3. Heart - moral character
 - b. Renew a Steadfast Spirit
 - i. Renew - renew, only here in religious sense, 2 Ch. 24:4, 12, altar 2 Ch. 15:8. renew, youth Ps. 103:5.).
 - 1. The renewal of spiritual endowment is made possible by the creation of a clean heart.
 - ii. Steadfast Spirit
 - 1. Steadfast- to be established: the moon firmly established in the religious and moral sense
 - 2. Spirit - Designation for that aspect of existence, human or otherwise, which is noncorporeal and immaterial.
 - c. Do not Cast
 - i. Cast from Presence
 - 1. Cast- to throw, hurl: a) throwing
 - 2. Presence
 - ii. Do not Take Holy Spirit
 - 1. Holy Spirit-
 - a. Holy -The root idea seems to be that of separation; in a theological sense, it is that which is separated or set apart or belonging to deity or associated with the divine. Holiness is especially evident whenever the divine presence is perceived (e.g., Exod 3:2–3; 19:18; Isa 6). “Wherever God’s presence is felt these men [sic] encounter the wonder and mystery of holiness”
 - b. Spirit - A few texts link רוחso clearly with God that the operation of the spirit is equivalent to the action of God,
 - i. Isa 63:11–14 is of particular interest in the case of “holy spirit.” The holy spirit of Yahweh is parallel with his “glorious arm,” which was with Moses through the exodus experiences (cf. Isa 40:10; 51:9).
 - c. Thus the appeal in Ps 51:11 seems to be for a continuing experience of the creative, life-giving, and empowering presence of God himself. One cannot experience the presence of God when his holy spirit is taken away.

- II. Restore vs. 12-13**
- a. Restore
 - i. Restore - Restore- especially return unto vb. to turn, to return. Refers to turning toward or away from something, often used with the sense of turning away from God (apostasy) or turning back toward God (repentance).
 - 1. Joy of Your Salvation
 - 2. Joy – The verb שׂורן v 16c indicates a joyful expression, an exuberant cry
 - 3. However, the context of praise and testimony suggests that it should be understood here in a salvific sense (Pss 22:32; 31:8; 69:28; 103:17; 143:1, 11, The sense is that of Ps 40:10–11.
 - 4. an appeal for a joyful freedom from the consequences of guilt
 - 5. Salvation- help, deliverance, salvation
 - ii. Sustain Willing Spirit
 - 1. Sustain - to sustain, help, to support and revive
 - 2. Willing Spirit - Then spirit which carries the idea of “willing/voluntary,” and “generous,” though its most basic idea is “to urge” or “to impel.”
 - a. Freedom to be oneself implies the power to serve willingly.” Perhaps the two ideas complement one another (cf. 1 Sam 31:8)
 - iii. I will Teach Transgressors Your Ways
 - 1. Teach - to learn, familiarize oneself; sg. to join, be connected with; basic meaning: to prick, spur on
 - a. Vow to teach sinners (51:15).
 - b. Transgressors - disloyal transgress against God, to break with or away
 - c. Ways - Way- his creative activity In a physical sense, דרךcan mean “road” (e.g., Gen 38:14; Deut 2:27; Josh 2:7; Ezek 21:21). In a metaphorical sense it can mean the course of life and the conduct characteristic of it. When used of God, it can mean either the divine course of action Sinners will be Converted
 - d. Sinners
 - e. Converted

- III. Deliver vs. 14-15**
- a. Deliver
 - i. Blood guiltiness - bloodshed,; most think of blood-guiltiness.—amplification, only one name needed for measure; concern of David for the removal of blood-guilt in 2 Sam 3:28–29; 1 Kgs 2:31–33; also 2 Sam 16:7, 8).
 - ii. God of my Salvation
 - b. Then
 - i. My tongue joyfully sing of Your Righteousness
 - 1. Joyfully Sing
 - a. Of your Righteousness
 - 2. Open my Lips - The prayer continues in v 17 with an appeal to God to open the speaker’s lips and to allow his or her mouth to declare the praise of God
 - a. First, the suppliant prays to be released from the restrictive results of guilt, the condition of “one whose conscience has shamed him into silence”
 - b. That my Mouth Declare your Praise
 - i. Declare
 - ii. Praise
 - iii. and who has been cut off from freedom to worship (cf. Ezek 16:13). God’s forgiveness would break the seal of guilt and give new joy (cf. 30:11–13; Ezek 3:26–27; 33:22). Second, the prayer is for an empowerment of speaking ability in order to teach and give testimony, which cannot be done adequately without divine help

- IV. Delight vs. 16-17**
- a. Do Not Delight in Sacrifice
 - i. Delight
 - 1. Sacrifice - The merciful action of God will not be received on the basis of sacrifice alone. The sacrifice sure to be accepted is that of a broken and contrite heart. Indeed, according to v 18, God is not receptive to sacrifices in the usual sense. The verbs חפץ and חפצהboth mean “to take pleasure in” or “to accept”
 - 2. I would give it
 - ii. Pleased
 - 1. Burnt Offering
 - b. Sacrifices of God are a Broken Spirit
 - i. Sacrifices
 - ii. Broken Spirit- conveys the idea that the worshiper turns away from burnt offerings and the like to present a personal spiritual condition as a sacrifice to God.
 - iii. Broken The “broken spirit” (cf. Pss 34:19; 147:3; Prov 15:4, 13; Jer 23:9)
 - iv. Contrite and “contrite heart” used for bones in v 10; cf. Pss 38:9; 90:3; Isa 3:15; 53:5) describe the condition of profound contrition and awe experienced by a sinful person who becomes aware of the divine presence (cf. Isa 6; Job 42:1–6). “The sacrifice that God demands is a sacrifice of man’s self-will and self-importance; in other words, it is the surrender of man’s own self to God” (Weiser, 410; Rom 12:1).
 - 1. Heart
 - 2. You will not Despise

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Pastor & Bobby Lawrence & family, Doris Myles & family, and Wesley Buckner & 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, Betty Goode, Joseph Brown, Latifah Brown and Kevin Carey.

RECOVER

PSALMS 51: 10-17