

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 7, 2022

Pouring Concrete Gifts

Pouring concrete is hard work. A solid base must be prepared before anything else is done. When the concrete is poured, it must be shaped before it sets, because once it sets, change is only possible if preceded by removal of what has already been laid down. If done correctly, a well-poured footing will last far beyond the original owner's lifetime. If done incorrectly, the evidence will appear soon enough as a crumbling surface, structural cracks, and a shift in walls and floors. Raising children is like pouring concrete. Before a baby arrives, a couple should prepare a solid base in their marriage and share a readiness for parenting. After the child arrives, the first few years can be likened to the time before the concrete sets. By our presence (more than presents), by careful and thoughtful attention to the thousands of details and tens of thousands of repetitions required, by unfailing prayer and careful instruction in the things of the Lord, we as parents attempt to set a mold that will last a lifetime and more into eternity.

Here are some principles that you should consider as you raise your child (author unknown):

If a child lives with constant criticism, he/she learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he/she learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear, he/she learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity, he/she learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with jealousy, he/she learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement, he/she learns to be self-confident. If a child lives

with tolerance, he/she learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he/she learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance, he/she learns to love.

If a child lives with approval, he/she learns to like him or her self

If a child lives with recognition, he/she learns to have a goal.

If a child lives with fairness, he/she learns what justice is.

If a child lives with honesty, he/she learns what truth is.

If a child lives with sincerity, he/she learns to have faith in themselves and those around them.

If a child lives with love, he/she learns that the world is a wonderful place to live in. When God blesses us with children, that is His gift to us. What we do when raising them is our gift to God.

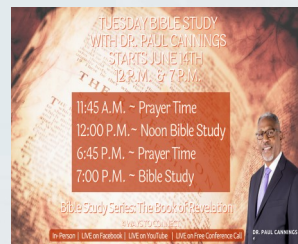
(Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:7-14).

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!"

(Ps 133:1; NASU) Please note that this passage says "brothers". (It is generically implying sisters as well).



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



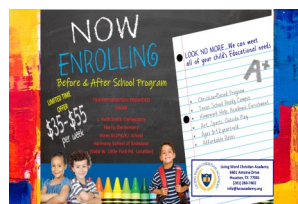
MEN'S MINISTRY—FAMILY MATTERS SAT. AUG. 20TH AT 9 A.M.

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 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.lwcacademy.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

"Choices"

2 Samuel 24:1-7

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

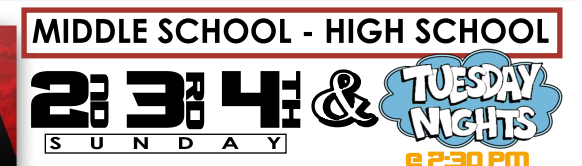
Call to Discipleship

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



Choices 2 Samuel 24:1-7

A. Easy (v. 1):

1. Saul was intensely seeking to kill David. He was about to trap (23:24-29) him, but God rescued David once more.
2. Evil does not rest until the Lord says enough because Satan is always on the prowl (1 Peter 5:8-9).
3. Saul became very purposeful in selecting the best, most vigorous young men who were in their prime to join him in looking for David and then commanded them to come with him. Saul became endlessly and more strategically intentional in seeking David's life. This was what he was going to dedicate this life to doing.
4. God is sovereign in His decisions. When Saul believes he is at his strength, he goes into the cave from his mighty force only to deliver himself to David. Man's best plans can be used to God's advantage because all things work for the good of those who LOVE GOD (obey God no matter what; Romans 8:28).

B. Encourage (v. 4):

1. David's men did everything possible to get his attention in an effort to get him to kill Saul.
2. David's men falsely speak of the Lord's authority, power, and covenant relationship with David. In their desire to help David and with Saul being very vulnerable, they believe the Lord had delivered Saul to David. In other words, the Lord's covenant with David that was established in the past is now completed.
3. God's Word is exposed in the midst of various circumstances, but circumstances do not deter mine the interpretation of God's Word. In other words, we cannot allow circumstances to directly influence the interpretation of God's Word. 4. David set his mind to what his men told him, believing it came from the Lord, and with full determination, he continuously sought to strategically find Saul, in the cave, and kill him.
5. David, however, was completely resolved not to kill Saul. By cutting off the edge of his kingly garment David had decided to transfer kingship to himself because his friends had convinced him it is the Lord's will.

C. Willful (vs. 5-7):

1. After David goes and finds Saul completely delivered into his hands and David cut the edge of his garment, (this signifies that he stripped him of his kingship) David repeatedly says to his men that this is not the will of God.
2. A man of God felt wrong for what he did, but David's men did not feel the same way. When God speaks to us, His voice should be louder than any friend. We must be more loyal to God than to friends.
3. What David communicated to his men is that there is no way he should have listened to them, by putting a lot of energy trying to fulfill what they said, when he already knew what God told him to do.
4. What David means by God's anointed is that God put Saul in place so it is God's choice when Saul is removed, not the will of a man.
5. Doing God's will not only requires obedience, but sometimes requires leadership when it involves others who are trying to lead us in the wrong direction. Providing that leadership can be a challenge when they are committed to what they believe is the right thing to do, especially when they are convinced it is the thing God wants them to do.
6. Friends who are loyal buddies must not succeed in pressuring us to disobey the Lord.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Jenny Dangerfield & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Pastor Duane & Bobby 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.

