

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 18, 2022

The Author & Finisher

We live in a world full of bomb threats, wars, the spread of disease, home invasions, school shootings, road rage, etc. Could you imagine living in Gaza, starting the day with your family intact, but finishing the day with most of your family members dead? What would our mindset be if these circumstances were happening to us? How would we keep our minds from being overwhelmed with worry and stress every moment of the day?

Our physical world can serve to remind us of what it is like in the spiritual realm. In a physical war there are so many agencies that are fighting to protect us. Maybe this is why in America we don't experience as many terrorist attacks. Similarly, what are we doing when there are terrorist attacks against the mind? Our kids are on Tik Tok, watching TV (with a tremendous number of selections), texting, and sometimes they have four-way video phone calls; there is a constant battle for their minds as well.

Christ did not have bombs or planes shot out of a sky, but Christ did have terrorist who sought to stone him, made false accusations, and He was eventually nailed to the cross. What kept His mind even when His disciples deserted Him at the worst moment of His life? Christ repeatedly said, "I must be about my father's business." He trusted that His Father was in complete control of the results, no matter what chaos ensued around Him.

Paul had a tumultuous life (2 Corinthians 4:7-12). They were putting him in jail, whipping him, taking him before magistrates, and accusing him of things he did not do. Paul did not lose his mind because he is convinced that he is more than a conqueror. He knew nothing would separate him from the love of Christ... (Romans 8:37-39). The "God of peace" sustained his mind because he fixed his mind on "whatever is honorable, whatever is right" (Philippians 4:8-9). As a result, Paul disciplined himself to be able, no matter what, to do "all things through Christ who strengthened him" (Philippians 4:13). He allowed what was taking place around him to discipline him to what God was doing inside of him from the inside out.

He lived in God's strength (1 John 4:4; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Daniel was the same way; he had people against him at his job, and people who wanted to kill him. But Daniel 1:8 says that Daniel made up his mind that he would do what God told him to do.

The pattern that saves the mind of the believer, is that no matter how difficult life may be, when the believer experiences life's difficulties they remain "fixed on Jesus who is the author and finisher of the race..." (Hebrews 12:1-3; Psalm 34).



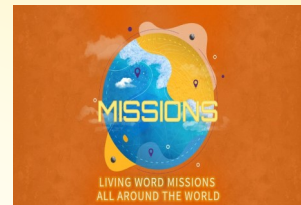
UPCOMING Events



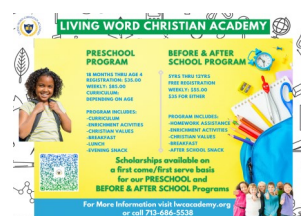
KINGDOM BUILDERS MEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY METHODS—SEPT 17TH 9:00 A.M.
The Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry will be hosting its monthly fellowship and Bible Study Methods class on Saturday, September 17th at 9 a.m. with Pierre Cannings. For more information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com



TECH TRAINING— IPADS, PHONES, LAPTOPS SAT. SEPT. 24TH 9 A.M.— 1 P.M.
Join us for a **FREE basic technology training** that will cover the basics of how to use iPads, laptops, mobile phones and social media including privacy settings and how to keep yourself safe online and on social media channels. You must register and there will be future trainings. **Lunch will be provided for FREE!** Register by clicking button below or sign up in the foyer. For more information contact **Shani Smothers** at shani.smothers@lwfellowshipchurch.org



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 WHY of MISSIONS!** We serve communities in Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Maarten, Rwanda, and several communities in the United States. Sign up to volunteer, and find out more information on the Missions page of our website 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 is included from select schools. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at www.lwcacademy.org



HELPING HANDS GRIEF MINISTRY MON. SEPT. 19TH 6:00-7:30 P.M.
Anyone experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one, the Helping Hands Grief Awareness Support Ministry will be meeting tomorrow, Sept. 19th 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the admin conference room to provide the awareness and support needed when faced with the death of a loved one. Register today or contact Maxine Thomas, Margaret Baptiste or Pastor Duane Lawrence at bmaxthomas@gmail.com.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"State of Mind"

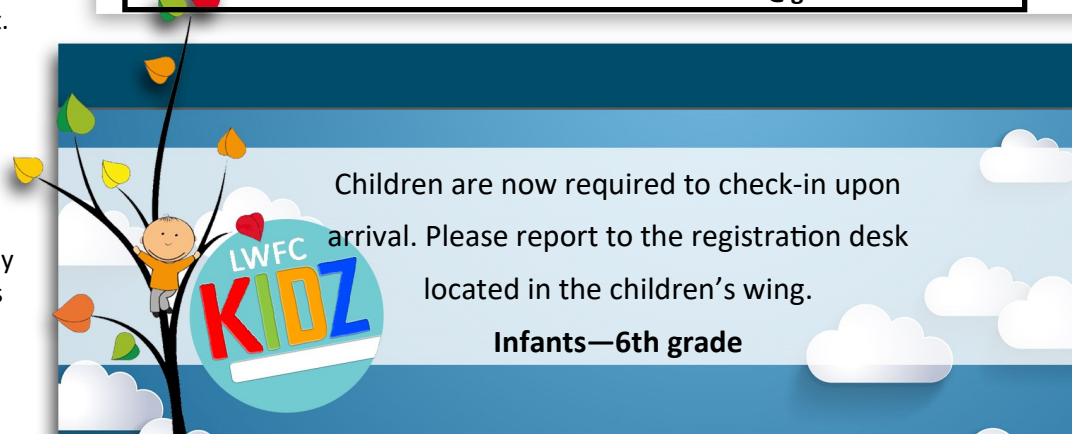
Romans 12:16

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



State of Mind
Romans 12:16

A. Laser Focused (v. 16a):

- 1. In the midst of relationships, challenges and tremulous circumstances, Christ teaches us, like it was for Him while He was on earth, we must make a mental decision to devote ourselves to trust the Word of God to be sufficient and obey it (2 Peter 1:2-11). This is our power and victory (Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12; Colossians 3:17). This is why Paul begins this chapter with verses 1-2.
- 2. This is the main object that makes everything work in this chapter. Our mental devotion leads to a sincere heart (the transformation process; 12:2) that displays affections from the heart so that no matter what our past passions may have been, our transformed heart keeps us in times of trouble (Romans 12:2-3, 9-10). Satan loves it when we use our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6) because this is what he uses to deceive us (the temptation of Christ models this for us; Luke 4:1-8).

B. The Mindset that Sets the Tone for Healthy Relationships (v. 16b):

- 1. Christ's willingness to obey His Father led Christ to humble Himself because of His Father's will and die like a thief on the cross even though He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. It is this mindset when adapted that leads us away from being "snobbish" looking down on people and therefore, blesses us to formulate relationships with anyone (Philippians 2:1-8). An attitude of positioning oneself above another person is detestable to the Lord God (Luke 16:15-16; NASB).
- 2. We are in fellowship with the Spirit when we commit to renew our minds and practice His will (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:14). As a result, we, like Christ, become gentle in the manner by which we relate to others (not seeking to create strife; gentleness is strength under control; Romans 14-15). Not a person who is rough, hard, violent, angry, or aggressive when offended.
- 3. Paul practices this in his own ministry. He does not preach "with eloquent wisdom lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power" (1 Cor. 1:17); he surrenders all his rights in the gospel for the welfare of his churches (1 Cor. 9:15-18); he refuses to boast except in his weakness because "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10); he willingly suffers the loss of all privilege for the sake of gaining Christ (Phil. 3:4-11). This was Paul's lifestyle because that is how Jesus lived. Jesus surrendered His status for the weak and the lowly (2 Cor. 8:9). [1]
- 4. When our mindset is set on loving others by first loving Christ (Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:7-11) we will be selfless, not boastful, kind, and patient (1 Cor. 13:4-8a). We are therefore better for ourselves and everyone else around us.

C. A Renewed Mind Leads to a Productive Life (v. 16c):

- 1. In order to accomplish what Paul is commanding us to do in this passage we must seek to allow the Spirit of God, through prayer (James 1:5-9) to provide to us His wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9-11). To depend on our own wisdom is to open ourselves to being influenced by demons (James 3:13-18; Proverbs 26:12; Acts 5:1-11) and based on Proverbs 3:5-6 not have productive results in our lives.
- 2. It is this mindset that causes us to experience the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, and it is this transformed life that allows our relationships to flourish and provides strength to deal with those who chose to be our enemies (Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 4:4).
- 3. We live blessed in His wisdom which is an outgrowth of our commitment to walk in Him (John 15:1-22; Ephesians 5:15-21).



APPLE / LAPTOP / MOBILE PHONE/SOCIAL MEDIA
TRAINING

SAT. SEPT. 24TH 9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
NOV. 12TH 9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
LEGACY SANCTUARY



LEARN
MOBILE PHONES
APPLE IPADS
SOCIAL MEDIA
LAPTOPS

SCAN TO REGISTER



OR REGISTER <https://bit.ly/3PiIOvS>



Featuring Our Very Own
Sharon Daniels
Prairie View A&M
University
Computer Science
Department, Roy G.
Perry College of
Engineering



Apple



BRING YOUR TECH QUESTIONS & GET ANSWERS!

Church Bazaar

Sun. Oct. 2nd 10 a.m.

- Ministry Fair
- Food
- Dance
- Showcases

- Fun Music
- Giveaways
- Information

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Wesley Buckner & family, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, the family of Mildred Thomas, JoeAnn Hayes & family, Roderick Williams & family, Jerry Griffin & family, Talicia Stringer & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Jerald & Ethel Owens & family, Maryland Flax & family, Krystal and Kenneth Dabney & family, Dorcus Blackmon & family, and Terry and Deidre McCoy.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, 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, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Joseph Brown, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Donald Edwards, Grace Edwards, and Kevin Carey.

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



State of Mind

Romans 12:16

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7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402