

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 4, 2022

## Seek Ye First

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of 1st Baptist Church in Dallas, once visited a wealthy businessman named James L. Kraft. Kraft told him that when he first started making cheese, he desired to be rich and famous by making and selling cheese, so he began working hard as a young fellow with a little buggy pulled by a pony named Paddy. After making his cheese he would load the wagon, and he, and Paddy would drive down the streets of Chicago to sell cheese. As the months passed, the young Kraft began to despair because he was not making any money, despite his long hours and hard work.

One day he pulled his pony to a stop and began to talk to him. He said, "Paddy, there is something wrong. We are not doing it right. I am afraid we have things turned around and our priorities are not where they ought to be. Maybe we ought to serve God and place him first in our lives." Kraft then drove home and made a covenant that for the rest of his life he would first serve God and then work as God directed. Mr. James L. Kraft became successful and attributed it to his willingness to serve God first.

Many people because they want to be successful, put everything before God, and find life becoming more and more frustrating and difficult to maintain. They make money, but it is quickly spent, and they have no lasting joy or peace in their lives. The Bible says that we must "...seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you." (Luke 12:31). "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." (Ps. 127). We must keep our lives balanced, serve God, not just the things of the world (Luke 12:13-21).

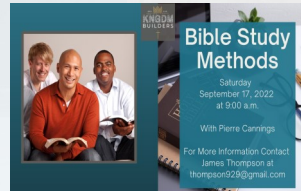
"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3; NIV)



## UPCOMING Events



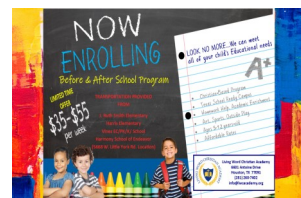
**PRAYER VIGIL—SEPT. 13TH 12 P.M. & 7 P.M.**  
Living Word family, join us for prayer and praise at our quarterly Prayer Vigil. There will be 3 ways to join: In-Person, on YouTube, and on Facebook at 12 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Bring your prayer requests for the start of the school year and intercede on behalf 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](mailto:tomitraw@sbcglobal.net)



**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 on Family Matters on Saturday, September 17th at 9 a.m. with Pierre Cannings. For more information contact James Thompson at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.com)



**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!** This week, we are highlighting BELIZE, our Vacation Bible School and Mission Trip that we took this summer and more! Visit our tables in the foyer. Give to the BELIZE project, sign up to volunteer, and find out more information on the Missions page of our website at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions) or contact Valarie Miller at [valarie.miller@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto: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](http://www.lwcacademy.org)



**LWFC VOICES OF PRAISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS BACK THURS. SEPT. 15TH 7:00P.M.**  
The LWFC Voices of Praise Children's Choir needs your voice and enthusiasm. Ages 6-12, come and join in song, learn music, and gather with your peers in worship for rehearsals and performances. For more information, contact **Bobbie Lawrence** at [bobbiejlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbiejlawrence@yahoo.com)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Jesus—The Word"

John 1:1; 14; 2:23; 3:18

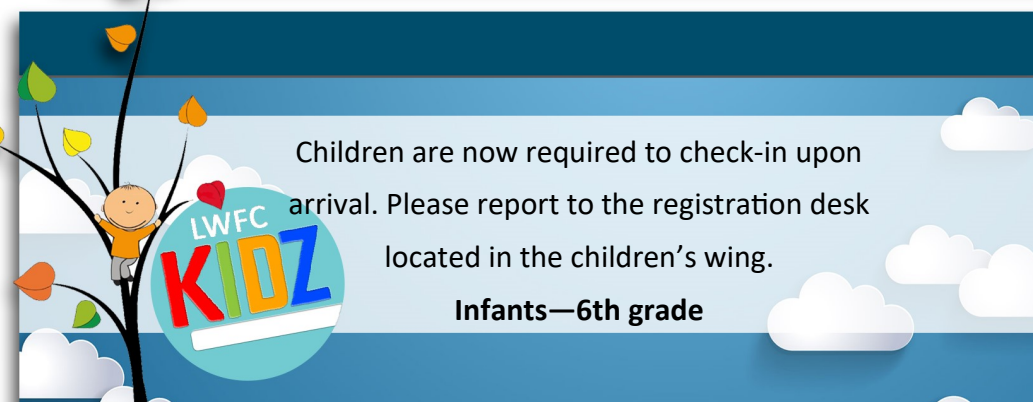
Associate Pastor Duane Lawrence

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





**Jesus – The Word**  
**John 1:1; 14; 2:23; 3:18**

**I. THE WORD BECAME FLESH (v. 14)**

- A. The Infinite became finite – Jesus voluntarily “limited” Himself
- B. The Eternal was conformed to time – Jesus could only be in one place at one time
- C. The Invisible became visible – Jesus could be seen in the flesh
- D. The Supernatural One reduced Himself to the natural – Jesus took on the form of man  
Jesus did not cease to be God but became God in human flesh

**II. DWELT AMONG US (v. 14) (to pitch a tabernacle or live in a tent)**

- A. The Old Testament tabernacle where God met with Israel before the temple was constructed (Exodus 25:8)
- B. Tent of meeting – Exodus 33:7 – seeking The Lord for a divine decision
- C. Where “the Lord used to speak to Moses face-to-face, just as a man speaks to his friends – Exodus 33:11
- D. In the New Testament – God chose to dwell among His people in a far more personal way through becoming a man
- E. God chose, through Jesus, to dwell among us
- F. His glorious presence is with us – (Colossians 2:9 – “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete,”)

**III. WE SAW HIS GLORY (v. 14)**

- A. Glimpses exist of His glory in the gospels of His divine majesty  
John 1 v. 2 Jesus – The Word
- B. Disciples saw glimpses of His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8)
- C. Christ’s glory was not only visible, but also spiritual
- D. Disciples saw Jesus display the attributes or characteristics of God (grace, goodness, mercy, wisdom, truth, etc.)

**IV. GLORY AS OF... THE FATHER (v. 14)**

- A. Jesus as God displayed the same essential glory as The Father
- B. They are one in essential nature
- C. Jesus never attempted to “outshine” The Father
- D. Jesus was always glorifying The Father

**V. ONLY BEGOTTEN (v. 14)**

- A. The same term is used of Isaac (Hebrews 11:17)
- B. He was not only the physical son of Abraham, but was the unique son of promise
- C. Jesus is the unique Son of God – He is the only Son Who is fully God
- D. The word “begotten” is from the Greek word “monogenos” which is “mono,” meaning one, and “genos,” meaning kind, so, Jesus is the “one of a kind” Son of God

**VI. FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH (v. 14)**

- A. When God revealed Himself to Moses (Exodus 34:6) – He declared Himself to be “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth”
- B. Overwhelmingly gracious
- C. Very slow to anger
- D. Loyal love  
John 1 v. 3 – Jesus – The Word
- E. Constancy
- F. God loves us just the way we are, but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are

**VII. PRODUCE PERMANENT FRUIT (v. 14)**

- (Jesus initiated the relationship with His disciples and He does the same thing with us.)
- A. Jesus desires for us to PRODUCE PERMANENT FRUIT (Galatians 5:22-23)
- B. Prayer
- C. Godly attitudes
- D. Righteous conduct, character, conversation
- E. Praise
- F. Leading others to Christ

**VII. PRODUCE PERMANENT FRUIT (v. 14) continued...**

Jesus, The Word, became flesh, so that those of us who would believe in Him, would not just be able to go to heaven, but He desires us to make a difference on earth.

What kind of difference are you making?

“Therefore many signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31- but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

John 20:30-31 (NAS)

JESUS - THE WORD, became flesh – so that you and I can:

FOLLOW HIS PLAN - FULFILL HIS PURPOSE - FUNCTION IN HIS POWER

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”  
John 1:1 (NAS)



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Doris Myles & family, Wesley Buckner & family, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Wesley Buckner & family, Pastor Duane and Bobbie Lawrence & family, and the family of Mildred Thomas.

**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, Sharon Owens, Erick Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Tanisha Collins, Latifa Brown, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Joseph Brown, and Kevin Carey.

