

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 20, 2022

## True Worship

Thanksgiving is a form of worship and can genuinely create great joy in the worshiper's heart, when their worship comes from the heart (Psalm 34:1-3) and not just because of the season (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). What do I mean by this?

I am always amazed at the picture of Lazarus sitting near Jesus with Mary on the floor, pouring her heart out to Christ in John 12:1-8. The disciples also shared a seat near the honored guest, Jesus, while Judas complained about how lavish Mary was in her worship. How can anyone be this composed when most people died at the age of 45 in Jesus' day, and Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the grave after four days? How could a resurrection occur, in these conditions, and Christ only gain one true worshiper? This is the same attitude we see displayed by Paul. Once Paul came to the realization of all that Christ meant to him, he counted all things lost (Philippians 3:1-6). When this occurs, it has to do with the pure meaning of worship.

Worship takes place when we highlight the worth or value of the person being magnified. Before Christ came to Mary, she wept over her brother's death. After her brother, Lazarus, was resurrected, she worshiped Christ. She was mad that Jesus took a long time to come because she believed He loved them and would do anything to help them, including healing their brother from his sickness. Christ did not come until her brother died. Mary finally understood after her brother was resurrected, that there is nothing Christ cannot do. No one, not even Elijah, had ever done this. Whether on earth or in heaven, Mary saw her Savior as the One who would provide for her forever. She worshiped Him with all the pure nard oil she had. Christ's true worth became fully exposed to her and with her heart fully thankful, she worshiped Him at all costs.

When we see Christ for who He is (As Mary did) and what He has sustained all year long, we can focus on His worth. We begin to recognize our sustenance has all come because of His favor (James 1:17). We learn, like Mary, that His lovingkindness is new every morning (Lamentations 3:23). We can even appreciate Him more when we compare Him to a predator like Satan prowling around every moment of every day constantly seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:6-8; Revelation 12:10). This should help us focus more on all that He does for us (Philippians 4:8-9). As a result, our hearts should become more and more thankful each day, leading us to sincerely magnify Christ for all He is, has done, and is doing. Worship Him (Psalm 34) as Mary did.



## UPCOMING Events



**SILVER STARS CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**  
**SAT., DEC. 4TH AT 11:00 A.M.**  
Silver Stars join us for our annual Christmas Celebration commemorating the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Cost per person is \$25. Theme: "Beauty Refined as Silver" Zachariah 13:9. Register to attend at <https://bit.ly/SilverStarsChristmas> For more information contact **Jacqueline Jordan** at [jacqjordan@att.net](mailto:jacqjordan@att.net)



**WIDOWS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**  
**SAT. DEC. 10TH 10 A.M.—2 P.M.**  
Join the Widows Ministry for their Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Call **Mary Wheatley** at **(281) 931-5744**.



**THANKSGIVING FEAST TODAY—NOV. 20TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE**  
Family, join us today after service for Our Annual Thanksgiving Feast! FEAST WITH YOUR LIVING WORD FAMILY THANKSGIVING STYLE. For more information contact **Keron Brown** at [keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED**  
**NO BIBLE STUDY THIS TUESDAY**  
There will be no Bible Study this upcoming Tuesday, November 22, 2022 and the Administrative Offices will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday. **Happy Thanksgiving!**



**LWCA PRESCHOOL—\$85 PER WEEK BEFORE/AFTER CLUBS—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK**  
Would you like your children to learn to be a little more like Jesus? Then, join the Living Word Christian Academy for preschool and before and after school programs and clubs including: robotics, chess, tennis, music, culinary arts, academic enrichment and much more! For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at [www.lwcacademy.org](http://www.lwcacademy.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Zeal"

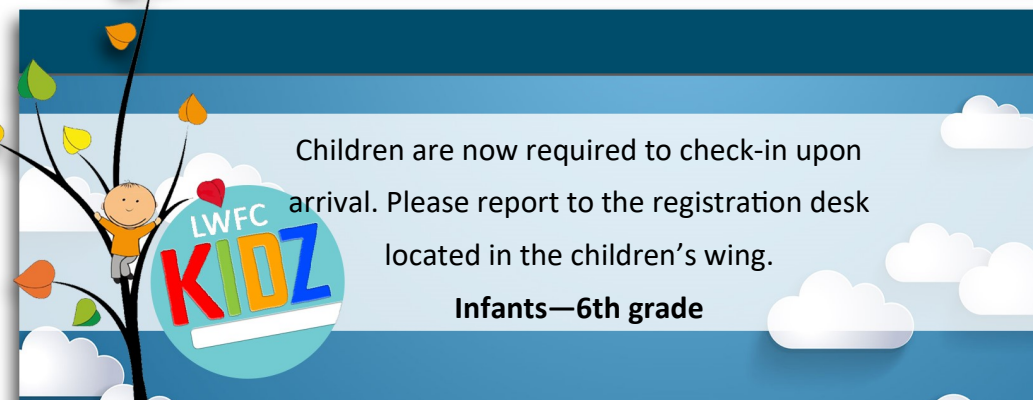
Psalm 134

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**





Zeal  
Psalm 134

A. The Center of it All (v. 1):

- 1. Because of all the distractions that can take place, we must make a decision to intentionally purpose in our hearts to worship the Lord just like David did.
- 2. To be blessed by God is to be joyous in His presence (Deuteronomy 28:47-48). This act of worship is a decisive purposeful statement of our trust in Him, so regardless of whether the week was good or bad we choose to believe that God is going to work things out for our good because He is faithful.
- 4. The person who makes an intentional decision to purposefully, joyously, and with reverence adore, is always in control because He has all authority and power. This is why genuine worship, despite the difficulties we may experience, is a demonstration of trust and respect.
- 5. Anyone who has a sincere experience with God is a servant because daily they respect His authority and power, seek His presence faithfully and serve Him like a slave serves their master. This person experiences who the Lord is and is willing to worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
- 6. David experienced the power of God through so many struggles. As a result, no one could stop him from worshiping God, even when there was a plague (1 Chronicles 21-22).
- 7. We must be purposeful in making sure God's house of worship is faithfully and sacrificially served. This attitude blesses God because it is a demonstration of our respect and honor for Him.
- 8. By lifting up our hands we signify that we have no control over our lives and all that we have accomplished. We offer it to Him because we view it as His favor towards us.
- 9. Our desire and passion must be with all humility, joyous, and reverent, vividly demonstrating all of God's favor towards us so that all who hear us view the Lord favorably. Our conviction that God is always doing good towards us should be manifested by the manner in which we praise Him.

B. Leads to Blessings (v. 3):

- 1. The Lord always has the ability to do everything He promises to do. He is all powerful and will faithfully execute His love towards us.
- 2. When our attitude is as described above, the Lord is committed to endlessly executing His favor towards us. His blessings also mean that His continuous favor can make us prosperous.
- 3. God's blessings are directed to our worship of Him in His place of worship (Psalm 128:5). Thanks to the work of David, Zion is a place of worship that will be in place forever.
- 4. God created out of nothing the heavens and the earth which is vivid before us and He sustains it all. There is no way He does not have the power and the authority to prosper us no matter how difficult things may seem.
- 5. It is David's commitment to worshiping God that led to His blessings and His eternal throne (2 Samuel 7). David would say; *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God, My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1-2)*
- 6. Keeping all that God is and means at the center of our lives, shapes the nature of our worship and our view of Him, which in turn determines our commitment to worship.



SILVER STARS

Annual Christmas Celebration

*Beauty Refined As Silver*

ZACH. 13:9

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> | 11 A.M.

Legacy Sanctuary

Semi-Formal Attire

\$25 Per Person



Register at <https://bit.ly/SilverStarsChristmas>

For more info contact Jacquelyn Jordan at [Jacqjordan@att.net](mailto:Jacqjordan@att.net)



Angel Tree





This Christmas, we have the opportunity to reach the children of prisoners with gifts on behalf of their parents, and the Good News of God's unfailing love.

Join us immediately after service to collect your child's Angel Tree card.

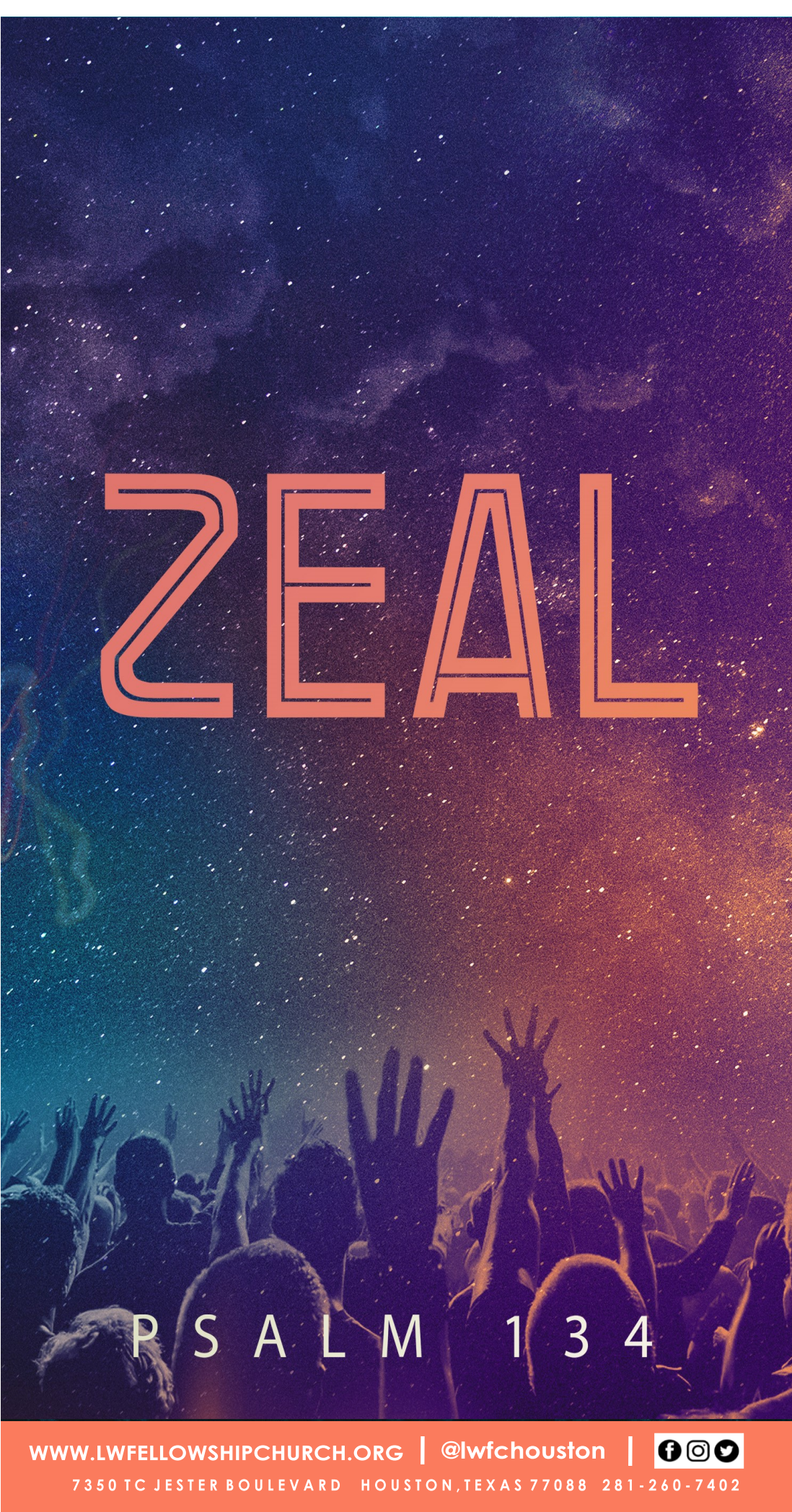
One gift per child is required. Unwrapped purchased gifts should be donated by Nov. 27th

For More Information, contact Co-Coordiators  
Pamela Collier or Janice Brown at  
[jrbrown\\_10@att.net](mailto:jrbrown_10@att.net)

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** The family of Andre Waldrup, the family of Joseph Brown, Paul Gates & family, the family of Clara Bell, the family of Angelica Joyce Roberts, Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & family, Ashley Gibson & family, Curtis and Tomitra Wiley & family, and O'neal and Mary Stovall & family.

**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, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Randy Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.



PSALM 134