

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 4, 2022

The Key Map

A man was desperately looking for a place he needed to be at on time. He, nor his friend, had smartphones, and he did not have a GPS in his car. He had an idea of where he was going, but he was unsure of how to find it and he did not want to stop and ask. He felt like he was looking for a needle in a haystack. Frustrated, he asked a friend how to get there. His friend pulled out a key map and showed him how to use it. The man became angry and said, "I don't need to know all that; just tell me how to get there." His friend said, "be patient, and I will show you how to get there, and because you are new to the city, I will give you this keymap book." The man, trying hard to keep from screaming at his friend, listened and soon found the place and every other place he needed to go.

We often live our lives while seeking God's guidance as we make daily decisions. We feel frustrated and sometimes angry at God as to why we cannot peacefully find our way through all the issues we may be experiencing. God has provided us with His key map—His Word. It is "...the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) It is powerful, living, and active (Hebr. 1:1-3; 4:12), and it will last forever (1 Pet. 2:23-25). In the application of His Word, it blesses us to enjoy life from the inside out (1 John 4:4). So even though we do not feel we need the map (the Bible), don't get mad; study it so that life will become less complicated and stressful. David, faced with so many decisions and wars, learns, "your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105). The Word of God is not just for sermons or devotions; it is the road map for life. "Every Word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His Words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6). "The one who despises the Word will be in debt to it. The one who fears the commandment will be rewarded." (Proverbs 13:13)

Enjoy the struggle of learning God's Word so that you can enjoy life and experience it abundantly (John 10:10).



UPCOMING Events



CELEBRATION OF LIFE PASTOR ANTHONY YOUNG

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die..." Pastor Cannings, along with the Living Word Fellowship Staff would like to inform you that our Brother Anthony Young heard the Master's call on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 and answered. Celebration of Life Services for Pastor Anthony Young will be held Saturday, December 10th. Viewing from 9:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. Service at 11:30 a.m. Our prayer is that God will give Anthony's immediate family and his church family strength to endure such a loss, while believing and knowing that absence from the body means presence with the Lord! 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



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 to RSVP at (281) 931-5744.



CONNECTION SUNDAYS—CHRISTMAS EVENTS EVERY WEEK IN DECEMBER

DEC. 4TH — Toy & Clothing Drop Off in the Foyer at 10 a.m.
DEC. 11TH—Texans vs. Cowboys Game Day Attire
DEC. 18TH—Donuts & Coffee in the Foyer at 10 a.m.
DEC. 24TH—"I Remember Christmas" Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.
DEC. 25TH—"Ugly Christmas Sweater" Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. & Photo Wall



LEGACY YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Youth, 7th-12 grade, join us for food, fellowship, & fun on Friday, December 16th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring a gift no more than \$10 for the white elephant exchange. For more information, contact Allison Pryor at aemilyp1@gmail.com Stay connected by joining our Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/lwfclegacyyouth



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.lwacademy.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

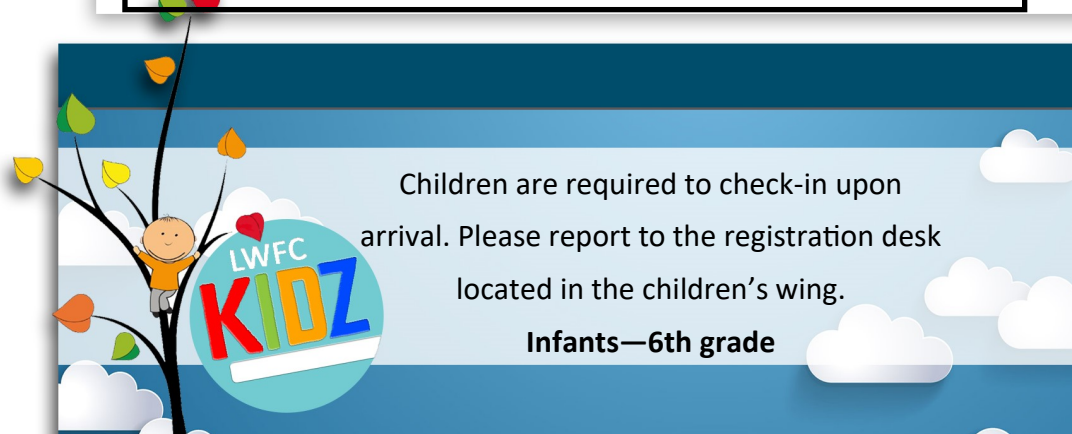
"Sense and Sovereignty"

Job 14: 1-7

Dr. Pierre Cannings

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

Call to Discipleship



Sense vs. Sovereignty
Job 14: 1-7

I. Sense vs. 1-2

- a. Man- “Man born of woman” is a poetic way of saying “everyone.” Contrary to the claims of the friends (8:12–13), the situation described here applies to righteous and wicked alike.
- b. Of few days, and full of trouble, Cometh forth ..., Fleeth, etc.—Born of woman] of such frail origin.—Of few days] even a life of patriarchal length (42:16) may he regarded as brief (Gn. 47:9).—Trouble] 3:17(n.), 26.
- c. Short-Lived
 - i. Full of Turmoil – agitation
 - 1. Two main meanings can be distinguished: descriptions of states of mind, and descriptions of physical states. The states of mind may be classified into three broad categories: first, those where an individual is or might be the object of contempt, derision or humiliation; second, those where he feels bashfulness or shyness; third, those where he feels respect or awe.
 - 2. There is a kind of contrast in the next two phrases. Our “days” are too “few,” and our “troubles” (cf. 3:17, 26) are too many; in fact, we are “full” of them. The verb form of the noun translated “trouble” means “tremble/quake” as in an earthquake (9:6; 1 Sam 14:15). It also describes persons trembling because of inner turmoil (2 Sam 18:33; Isa 14:2; 32:10–11).
 - 3. How strange (cp.13:28) that God should strictly call to account creatures so frail, short-lived, and (cp 7:1–3) full of unrest as man!
 - 4. “Turmoil,” which תרגש signifies (not simply “trouble”) is the “tumult of feeling and the onslaught of sufferings” cf. also on 3:17, 26. Job is full of, “satiated with” ,שבעrestlessness (7:4) and shame (10:15); it is this fullness that makes him empty, dried up, and feeble.
- d. Temporary
 - i. Flower
 - 1. Forth and Withers
 - a. Job compared the brevity of life to a “flower,” quickly springing up and soon withering away, and to a “shadow” that vanishes at noon or at sunset. The figure of the dying flower is used in Jas 1:10; Pss 37:2; 90:5–6; and Isa 40:6–7. Bildad, David, and Qoheleth compared life to a shadow (Job 8:9; 1 Chr 29:15; Pss 102:11; 144:4; Eccl 6:12).
 - b. For the image of the flower as short-lived, cf. Ps 103:15–16; Isa 28:1, 4; 40:6–8; James 1:10, 11; 1 Pet 1:24 (grass: 2 Kgs 19:26; Ps 37:2; 90:6; 102:12 [11]; 129:6). The picture is generally of the fresh growth in the spring which comes to an untimely end before the hot east winds of summer. Here, however, it is possible that the means “cut off,” not “fade” (see n. 14:2.) the image is that of the spring flowers being cut down by the reaper’s sickle along with the grain in May or June
 - ii. Shadow transitory as shadows
 - 1. Does not Remain
 - 2. For the image of the shadow as swift, cf. 8:9; Ps 102:12 [11]; 109:23; 144:4; Eccl 6:12; 1 Chr 29:15.

II. Sovereignty v. 3-6

- a. Open
 - i. Eyes
 - 1. Such human frailty and impermanence is contrasted with the divine inquisition, which is of course thorough and long extended. To “open the eye(s)” (פָּקַח עֵינַי) is here to pay attention to; what is elsewhere met with as an appeal for God’s care (Isa 37:17; Jer 32:19) is here turned against him
- b. Bring
 - i. Him into Judgment
 - 1. Such trials (Job’s is the model of all such trials) begin with punishment, presumably in the form of pre-trial “arrest” of the defendant by the plaintiff. Job himself certainly wants a trial with God now that he finds his character blackened; but without self-contradiction regards the whole concept of God willfully entering into legal disputation with humans as inappropriate and disproportionate to the relative power of humanity and God. A psalmist could contrast the brevity of human life with God’s greatness in order to stress his goodness (Ps 103:15–17), but Job is made of sterner stuff—or, should we say, more sensitive matter.
- c. Clean
 - i. Make Clean
 - 1. Out of Unclean
 - a. Job never claimed to be sinless, only that his sin was an insufficient explanation for his suffering. In view of the sinful condition of humanity, he demanded to know why his sins deserved such treatment.
 - b. And his point about humankind does not depend upon all human beings being always sinners; it has to do with the potential sinfulness of humankind, whose moral fallibility is a kind of correlate of their physical frailty and impermanence. In some respects Job would not dissent from Eliphaz’s words, “Can a man be pure in the sight of his Maker?” (4:17);

II. Sovereignty v. 3-6 continued

- d. Days are Numbered
 - i. Determined - **determine**; judgement
 - ii. Number of Months With You
 - iii. Limits Set - what is stipulated, determined, term
- e. Turn your Gaze
 - i. Turn Look away from] 7:19, 10:20 n.—And forbear] or desist, 7:16 n. That he may cease.—Till] or: to the point that I will snatch what pleasure I can—if any!—from the days that are left to me. Of course it will be a relief to be rid of the oppressive burden of God’s scrutiny, once he has taken his eyes “from off” (מֵעַלָּיו)humankind—which is to say, Job.
 - ii. He May Rest- **to be successful**
 - iii. Until He fulfills
 - 1. Like a hired Man
 - 2. If, as is the case (1f.), man’s life is brief, the fact is both known to and ordained by God; let God, then, desist (6a) from His unkindly gaze (3), that man may get at least some pleasure before his brief hard life is over.
 - 3. “[Job] desires that God would grant man the comparative rest of the hireling, who must toil in sorrow and eat his bread in the sweat of his brow, but still is free from any special suffering, by not laying extraordinary affliction on him in addition to the common infirmities beneath which he sighs.”

December 4

Toy & Clothing Drop Off in the Foyer at 10 a.m.

December 11

Texans vs. Cowboys Game Day Attire

December 18

Donuts & Coffee in the Foyer at 10 a.m.

December 25

Ugly Sweater Sunday Photo Wall

Connection Sundays are designed for fellowship, serving, and celebrating Christ as a church body. Join us, for activities each Sunday in December.

For More Information

Contact Jeffrey Allen at Jeffrey.Allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Ashley Gipson & family, Curtis and Tomitra Wiley & family, and O'neal and Mary Stovall & family, the family of Ethel Davis, Vivian Jackson & family, and Kim Young and the family of Anthony Young.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Rufus Hadnot, Randy Hadnot, Pat James, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, and Deborah Smith.



SENSE AND SOVEREIGNTY

JOB 14:1-7