

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 10, 2023

Tasty or Healthy

While I was out of town, my wife called me as I was eating dinner. She asked me what I was eating and I told her a salad. She quickly complimented me and told me how glad she was that I chose to eat a salad. What she did not know, because she did not ask, was that the salad had bacon, cheese, and eggs, and only because I felt guilty after adding all that meat, I only put a small amount of ham. Stop judging. It still had quite a bit of green leaves.

Many believers may attend church wanting to develop a healthy walk with the Lord, but wish to have items included that make church feel good. We want music that fits our style, and the service must work within our time limitations, and the pastor must not preach anything that may offend us. This does not mean that we may not feel uplifted and encouraged, but we are spiritually healthy in the long run. If the church does what we want, Christ exits, and there are no rewards for us when we arrive in heaven (Revelation 3:1-6; 14-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). This is why saving our lives our way means we lose. In surrendering to Christ's way, we gain life abundantly (Luke 9:24; Philippians 1:21; 3:7-8).

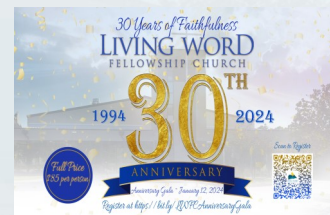
Christ's passion for the church is to create a loving community (Ephesians 4:16; lots of love for one another in scripture). This community should be committed to spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:11-13), sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2-5), evangelism, missions, good deeds (Acts 1:8; Hebrews 10:23-26), and to give to Him so that the church can effectively achieve His purposes with decency and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

I cannot tell you the salad did not taste good. Was it the healthiest salad? Obviously not. So, in the long run, is it the taste or what is healthy? Being in a healthy church produces a healthy life, but does not always taste good. The healthy church of Philadelphia was tested, but came out victorious (Revelation 3:7-13). The church of Smyrna did not fail under extreme difficulties and received the "crown of life" (Revelation 2:8-11). Whereas the church of Corinth was carnal, immoral, and entertained false teachers who called themselves apostles, lacked love, were more into the temporal than the eternal. The church of Corinth did not give to God faithfully, marriages were corrupt, and spiritual gifts lacked their spiritual intent. Like the salad, things seem good, but an unhealthy environment corrupted the lives in the church. However, the church of Thessalonians was such a model church that it became an example to churches worldwide (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9). So even though this church experienced many afflictions because it was a healthy church, it was a "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope....." (1 Thessalonians 1:3-5).

Let us approach the Lord's church with our Bibles and hearts open. Trust Him. He loves us and He knows what is best.



UPCOMING Events



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS
Join us January 12, 2024 for our 30th Anniversary Gala. This is a formal event including entertainment, mocktails, fellowship, and more! Tickets are on sale now for \$85. Payment plans are available. Visit bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala to purchase your tickets today. For more information, contact the church at (281) 260-7402.



LEGACY YOUTH MUSIC FORUM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 1:00 P.M.
Youth join us as we discuss what music speaks to your generation. Share your favorite Christian songs so that we can build a worship service for you that meets your needs. Send Christian Songs at <https://bit.ly/LegacyYouthMusic> and for more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MISSIONS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2023
Hey Living Word Family, It's Missions Month! Every Sunday in September tune in for special Missions presentations and highlights showing how Living Word Fellowship is making a Christian impact across the globe. Visit the Connections Center in the lobby or contact Valarie Miller for more information at lwfcmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MINISTRY HUNT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 10 AM - 2 PM
The hunt is on in the main foyer, Sunday, Sept. 24th. Between our services, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. have fun at our Church Ministry Fair. Come learn, hunt for more information, and sign-up to serve with one or more of our various ministries at LWFC. **Ministry leaders contact Jeffrey Allen to sign up for your tables and materials.**



LWCA BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL
Our children are back in school! Sign up for our LWCA before and after care for ages 5-12. Students will learn robotics, arts and crafts, cooking classes, outdoor sports including tennis, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$55. Register at www.lwcacademy.org or by calling (713) 686-5538



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Purpose"

II Corinthians 3:18
Associate Pastor Duane Lawrence

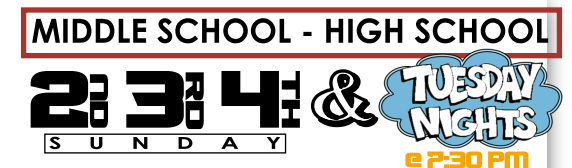
Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

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



SERMON OUTLINE

Purpose II Corinthians 3:18

Why am I here? Why are you here? All of us at one time or another have asked this question. God has a purpose for your life and He has placed you here on earth to fulfill that purpose.

I. Our heavenly Father has a “very unique” plan for your life – Ephesians 1:3-4

- A. Do not compare your plan with someone else’s plan
- B. Do not covet someone else’s plan
- C. Do not condemn someone else’s plan

II. The sufferings that we are experiencing now and will experience in the future are insignificant II Corinthians 4:17 – “is producing” – “working” – “accomplishing”

- A. Light affliction – weightless, though the pressure is intense, it is still light
- B. Lasting for a very short while (moment)
- C. Limited restrictions (will only go so far)

III. Another process that is taking place in our lives as we fulfill the purpose of God is that of transformation – Romans 12:1-2

- A. Holy – set apart to be used by God
- B. Acceptable – pleasing to Him
- C. Reasonable – makes sense to do it
- D. Transformed – changed

IV. As we continue to fulfill the purpose of God in our lives our primary goal should be to become more like Christ – Philippians 2:5

- A. All godly action, attitude, and ambition begins with the “renewing of the mind”
- B. Right thinking produces right action, attitude, and ambition
- C. We should think and act like Jesus

V. God did not wait for us to improve our attitude, behavior or conduct before Christ died for us, but while we were still in our sin, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

- A. God loved us when we were still in our sin
- B. God loved us while we were still without strength
- C. God loved us while we were still in an ungodly situation

VI. When you know your purpose, you will serve from a sincere heart Colossians 3:17

- A. Submit to the Father
- B. Surrender to the Son
- C. Serve in the power of the Holy Spirit

VII. God has given you a gift, and in some cases, more than one gift. Whatever your gift is, God wants you to use that gift or gifts to fulfill His purpose for your life.

- A. Ask God to help you DISCOVER YOUR GIFT
- B. Ask God to help you DEVELOP YOUR GIFT
- C. Ask God to help you DEMONSTRATE YOUR GIFT

God has a wonderful plan (purpose) for your life and He wants you to reflect His love and glory to the world.

Follow His Plan - Fulfill His Purpose - Function in His Power



Missions Month

Our Missions Team travels all over the world to spread the love of Jesus Christ. We appreciate your continued support through donations and prayers.

Sign Up at: <https://bit.ly/LWFCMissions>

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions

Contact: Valarie Miller
at lwfcmissions@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Be Intentional
MINISTRY HUNT
2023 MINISTRY FAIR

Join us as we intentionally hunt out opportunities to serve through the various ministries offered at LWFC.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH 10AM-2PM

Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCMinistryHunt2023>

For more information contact Jeffery Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Christopher Chapman & family, Katrina Humphrey & family, Lloyd Lewis & family, Barbara Taylor & family, Bryan Grant/ Joyce Hayes & family, Brenda Bonhame & family, Aray Williams & family, James Thompson & family, the family of Kendra Scott, Paulette Mayo & family, the family of Erik Hailey, Jessie Austin & family, and Susie Farley & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, and Patsy Gatterson.

PURPOSE

II CORINTHIANS 3:18

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