

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 5, 2023

From Death To Life

Many times, when a preacher brings up sin as a subject, we become defensive, dismissive, or distraught. Because of how we may react to what we may not realize, God/Christ addresses this because He has a passionate desire to have a friendship with us. Allow me to explain before you stop reading.

The question should be, “Why is this issue so important to God that it would cause Him to nail His son to the cross for us.” The purpose of all this taking place was not just about getting us to heaven; folks went to heaven in Abraham’s bosom in the Old Testament. God so passionately wants to have an intimate, meaningful relationship with His children (while sin causes us not to seek Him; Romans 3:10-11); this trait hinders that because His nature is Holy. He also knows that once there is a distance between Him and us, it provides satan the opportunity to drift us so far from Him (who is life) we can experience an early death (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:16).

When we take a look at the Levitical system in the Old Testament, we see how much people had to do in order to experience a true worshipful relationship with God. Because they focused more on the system rather than the passion He has for them, by the end of the Old Testament, God had no relationship with them. Their hearts became so dark they nailed Jesus Christ to the cross. The same can take place if we just do church rather than use our experience in church to grow in Him. He is not bringing up sin to discourage us, our church, or to interrupt our lives. All of this is because He passionately wants His children to experience what He came to regain, which is an intimate friendship that moves us from death to life (John 10:10; 15:1-14).

This is why when Jesus died on the cross, He provided us grace so that we have every possible means to be in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. Grace was provided because God knows, no matter how much we surrender our lives to Him, we will still sin from time-to-time (1 John 1:8-9). However, His grace was not provided to encourage us to sin because that defeats the purpose (Rom 6:1-2).

Many people in the Bible grasp God’s passionate desire to have a relationship with us. Once they grasped this, people like Rahab, David, Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Paul spent their entire lives focused on experiencing an intimate, loving relationship with God. These people were quick to address their sins because they recognized He was the one continuously seeking them (Romans 7:14-24). Paul became so passionate he pleaded for someone to cut him from this “body of death;” to be delivered from the flesh that influences him to sin (Romans 8:9-17). The issue of sin is more about His desire for a friendship; He gave up His life to regain (John 15:13-15).



UPCOMING Events



FAITH VOTES!

Living Word Family we have an incredible responsibility to get out and vote. **Your Voice Matters And Your Vote Counts.** Early voting is happening now. Visit www.harrisvotes.com for your assigned polling place to vote early. Election Day is coming up very soon on Tuesday, November 7, 2023! Faith Votes so let’s show our faith and get out and vote!



DEACON FAMILY SIGN UP FOR THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY

Please sign up with your Deacon to contribute items for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway that will take place on Saturday, November 18th and Sunday, November 19th. Also Register to Volunteer for the Basket Giveaway, the Garage Sale, and The Thanksgiving Feast. All forms are located on the events page of the website, so sign up to **Volunteer Today!**



FREE THANKSGIVING FEAST

Join us for One Service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday November 19th at Living Word Fellowship Church at 7350 W. TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77008 followed by a FREE Thanksgiving Feast like no other in our Legacy Sanctuary! Register on the events page of the website, so we have an accurate count for food. For More information, contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LEGACY YOUTH LOCK-IN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 11 AM 7 PM
Legacy Youth 7th – 12 th grades, Join us for FREE FOOD, GAMES, AN OBSTACLE COURSE, AND then VOLUNTEERING AT THE REACH! Register at <https://bit.ly/3RU3gif> and for more information contact Min. Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org



L.E.G.I.T. YOUNG ADULTS FRIENDSGIVING

Young Adults Ages 18-35 Join L.E.G.I.T. Saturday, Nov 18th at 5:00 p.m. for Free Food, Fun, an Open Mic, And Fellowship. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/LEGITFriendsgiving2023> to bring food items and to confirm the song or poem you want to perform during the Open Mic. Registration Is Required In Order To Perform. For More Information Contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

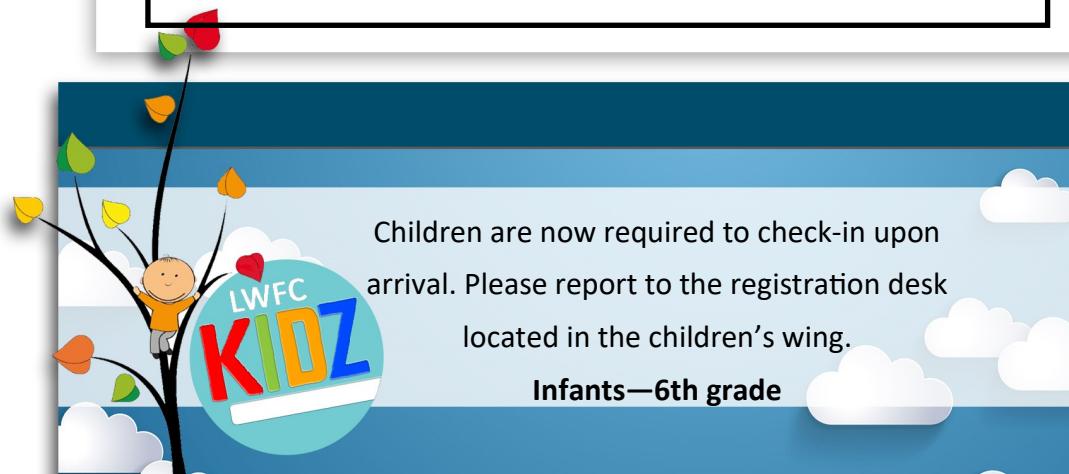
Special Music

“In Spite Of”
Zechariah 3:1-7

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



In Spite Of
Zechariah 3:1-7

A. Accused (vs. 1):

- 1. Joshua was under complete scrutiny before the angel of the Lord. He was inspected against all that the Word of God stood for.
- 2. Joshua, the High Priest, stood in an upright manner as an official.
- 3. The Angel of the Lord, who functions in the nature of God and as God’s representative, operates with the authority of God while scrutinizing the activity of Joshua the High Priest.
- 4. Satan, who is the prince of the air (Eph. 2:2), full of pride (1 Tim. 3:6), who does everything possible to seduce men (1 Chr. 21:2; 2 Sam. 24:1) and the adversary of all those who are saved, is the accuser (Rev. 12:10).
- 5. Satan took a position of honor and strength, which exposes his level of pride and confidence.
- 6. We are protected by our commitment to live righteously (Job 1; Psalm 34:7-9).
- 7. The Lord is sovereign and decisive. His covenant is our protection.
- 8. By repeating His rejection of satan’s accusations, the Lord makes His rejection even more detestable and emphatic.

B. Back to New (vs. 3-4):

- 1. The Lord, after addressing satan, now continuously and verbally speaks directly to Joshua.
- 2. Joshua, despite satan’s bold attacks, still stands.
- 3. To remove is not just to take off the garments; the word also means that whatever caused Joshua to wear these filthy garments, he is now commanded to change.
- 4. By using the word filthy, the author is being descriptive. The garments were foul, with human excrement smeared over them, making Joshua ceremonially unclean.
- 5. The total of all the past depraved sins of Israel that deserve punishment was removed.
- 6. What is so powerful is that once the Lord removed Joshua’s filthy garments, nothing of the past is represented before the Lord anymore.

C. Come Close (vs. 6-7):

- 1. The angel of the Lord continuously warns Joshua, and this now serves as a witness.
- 2. This is the first time in the Bible that God is designated by this title, the Lord of Host, the sovereignty of God over all powers. Joshua must now develop a righteous lifestyle directed by the divine will of God.
- 3. What the Lord of Host is requiring of Joshua is very personal. He repeatedly says, “My.”
- 4. Joshua must now guard what is entrusted to him with a sense of obligation. ,
- 5. The Lord of Host placed Joshua in the position to not allow the nation of Israel to sin so that his garments become filthy again. Grace is not abundant, so we sin (Romans 6:1-2).
- 6. The Lord of Host will generously, permanently put in place (this access is guaranteed) free access before the presence of the Lord.
- 7. Joshua can now freely come into the Lord's presence whenever he chooses (John 15:1-13).
- 8. Joshua, who no longer wears filthy garments, can stand in the presence of the Lord like everyone else who stood before the Lord of Host if he honors “My ways,” “My service,” “My house,” and “My courts” by His Word.



LEGACY THANKSGIVING

Youth Lock-In

FRIDAY, NOV. 17 7 PM- SATURDAY, NOV. 18TH 11 AM

Register at <https://bit.ly/3RU3gif>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MIN. JORDAN WASHINGTON AT LEGACYOUTH@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG



L.E.G.I.T. YOUNG ADULTS

FRIENDSGIVING

SATURDAY NOV. 18 5 PM

OPEN MIC-FOOD-FELLOWSHIP-GAMES

Registration is required to participate in Open Mic performances

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KERON BROWN AT KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

<https://bit.ly/3tgkLdd>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mary Ngwazini / Oralee Fields and their families, the family of Ella James, Sheryl Crowe & family, Telisha Brown & family, Donnie Emerson & family, Pamela Farris & family, Terri Kuvach & family, Deidra McCoy & family, and Eleanor Wilson & the family of Calvin G. Wilson.

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



ZECHARIAH 3:1-7