

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

Feburary 18, 2024

Stand Up!

It is said that King Philip of Macedon fell asleep one day while hearing a case. Waking suddenly and not having all the facts of the case straight, King Philip passed an unjust sentence on the man who was at the king’s mercy. Stunned by the sentence, the poor man cried, "I appeal!" Startled, the king asked, "And to whom do you appeal?" The man replied, "From the king who was sleeping to the king who is waking." The king was so moved by the man's logical appeal that he reversed the judgment he had passed. (Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times).

Many times, when we are faced with moments where individuals may believe they were treated unjustly, it is easy for believers to say nothing and pray. This can lead to bitterness, anger, and resentment. The scriptures are clear that to say nothing encourages more evil. “Therefore at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.” (Amos 5:13; NASU) Many times, when Christ was challenged for being evil, He spoke up. In the case where the Pharisees accused Him of being with satan, Christ openly addressed them (Matthew 12:22-29). When Peter was addressing those who were struggling under Nero’s ruthless oppression, Peter instructed these believers to speak up; “Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed, and do not fear their intimidation.....always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:13-16; NASU) Our silence can encourage more evil to proliferate.

Jesus Christ's mission on earth was for the oppressed, and most of His miracles and acts of kindness were to disadvantaged people; “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (Luke 5:18-19). Christ went to the Samaritan woman and even spent time with those who came out of the village to hear His message (John 4:39-45); not a good look for a Jew (see Acts 10).

The question is not whether we should speak up or serve needs (Matthew 25:31-40; we will be rewarded eternally for this), but how we do so with words that are seasoned and edifying (Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29). We are where we are today because many spoke up, stood up, including Christ; be counted, be a blessing!



UPCOMING Events

**College Student Retreat**  
MARCH 1ST - 3RD  
FREE 3-DAY RETREAT  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH | FELLOWSHIP  
REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCCollegeRetreat>

**COLLEGE STUDENT RETREAT—3/1-3/3 2024**  
Attention College Students, a special 3 day retreat for you is coming up March 1-3, 2024. The cost is \$40. We will meet at the church on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. and drive together to the retreat space. Register on the events page of the website and for more information contact **Keron Brown** at [keron.brown@lwfcfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfcfellowshipchurch.org)

**Bible Study**  
The Book of Revelation  
EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM & 7 PM  
STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024  
REVIEW YOUR REVELATION BIBLE STUDY NOTES HERE AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes> or Scan QR Code  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH AT (281) 260-7402

**REVELATION BIBLE STUDY– EVERY TUESDAY**  
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>  
See you there to continue our deep dive into the book of Revelation. For more information call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.

LWFC SILVER STARS  
**BLACK HISTORY**  
Month  
CELEBRATION  
CELEBRATING BLACK AMERICAN EXPERIENCES  
SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 24TH AT 11AM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
JACQUELYN JORDAN AT [JACJORDAN@ATT.NET](mailto:jacjordan@att.net)

**SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION**  
Living Word family, all are welcome to join us for the Silver Stars Ministry annual Black History Celebration on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Come learn, have fun, fellowship, and honor those that have come before us. For more information contact **Jacqueline Jordan** at [jacjordan@att.net](mailto:jacjordan@att.net)

**VOTE**  
ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 7 AM - 7 PM  
Early Vote Centers will be open from Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon - 7 p.m.  
We Congratulate and Support our very own **Michelle Bonton** on her run for Senate!  
Find Your Voting Center at: <https://www.harrisvotes.com>

**VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE**  
**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, 3/5/24 7 AM - 7 PM**  
Living Word Family don't forget to vote on **Election Day, Tuesday March 5, 2024**. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early Vote Centers will be open from Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon - 7 p.m. We congratulate and support our very own **Michelle Bonton** on her run for Senate. To find your voting location or for more information visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

*Bridging the Gap*  
Part II  
LEGACY  
Women of Grace  
TITUS 2:3-5  
Join Us For a Diverse Panel Discussion About Life!  
LEGACY  
TITUS 2:3-5  
Join Us For a Diverse Panel Discussion About Life!  
LEGACY

**WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY BRIDGING THE GAP PART II—3/2/24 9 AM**  
Ladies, join us for the second part of the Bridging the Gap Event on **Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 9 a.m.—11 a.m.** Refreshments will be served and childcare provided for this exciting opportunity to connect with the ladies of Living Word and continue to Bridge the Gap. Register on the events page of the website and for more information email [wog77088@gmail.com](mailto:wog77088@gmail.com)



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Follow Justice”  
Deuteronomy 16:18-20

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor’s Welcome

Benediction

**LWFC KIDZ**

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

**Infants—6th grade**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY  
e 7:30 PM



Follow Justice  
Deuteronomy 16:18-20

A. God’s Way (v. 18):

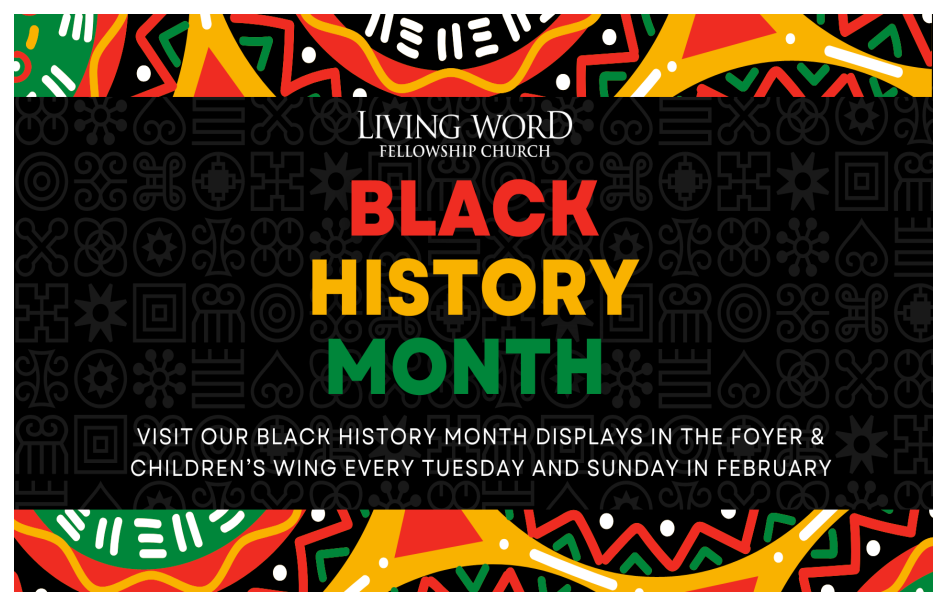
- 1. The people in places of authority need to be carefully instituted because they would rule over those who appoint them, not God.
- 2. Being a part of the voting process is a Biblical responsibility, not just a civil one.
- 3. It is essential to determine who governs and arbitrates cases while providing leadership over the issues because they are required to execute the rights of the people justly, no matter who the people are.
- 4. They also needed leaders to function among them so that what was litigated was faithfully executed into the life of the community.
- 5. In the New Testament, the church community establishes His principles into the life of the people (Ephesians 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 3:15). The people who oversee this are the pastor (1 Timothy 4:11-13; Titus 2:13-15), elders, and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 6:1-6). This is because God executes His agenda for the world through the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), which is the restraining force against the attacks of satan (Ephesians 3:8-12). This is why we have chaos on earth when the church fails in Revelation. We hold the keys to lock and unlock the gates of Hades (Matthew 16:13-20).
- 6. It is essential for these leaders to have unwavering adherence to God’s standards and live by them because it is due to them that believers in the Christian community are encouraged to execute God’s principles in their lives and the life of the community (1 Timothy 4:15-16; Hebrews 13:7-8). As a result, the government structure that leads the Lord’s community leads first by example.

B. Without Partiality (v. 19):

- 1. No one should emphatically negate any part of the law by willfully or inadvertently assembling a group of people who seek to change the laws or distort or interrupt the execution of God’s laws.
- 2. When the Lord’s laws are not implemented correctly, they corrupt the character of those responsible for executing them and eventually blind their judgment (2 Peter 1:3-11). The Word of God is a light when it is purely interpreted (Psalm 119:105; 1 John 1:5-7).
- 3. Corrupting the implementation of God’s laws in the community overthrows the righteous implementation of the law and, therefore, creates an "intense state of destruction and ruin to the community's life " (Proverb 13:6).

C. Experience God’s Protection (v. 20):

- 1. There is no way for the Lord’s Word to live powerfully in His community's life if His standards do not reign above everyone’s ideologies, feelings, or biases. His standards must be held without bias. Those who execute it must learn to live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4).
- 2. The leaders must have one state of mind, which is to personally practice the Word of God and, with purpose and determination, execute the Word of God in the community's life.
- 3. When the community functions under the authority of the Lord God, there is no way they will not experience His protection and blessings every day of their lives. If they encounter difficulties, the Lord God will restore, preserve, and establish them so that they are dominant in the land.
- 4. Our impact on the world, so that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37), is determined by being salt and light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Once we are committed in this manner, we restrain Satan’s influence (Matthew 16:13-20; Ephesians 3:8-10), allowing the church to set the Lord’s agenda to the world (Ephesians 1:22-23).



# VOTE

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**We Congratulate and Support our  
very own Michelle Bonton  
on her run for Senate!**

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<https://www.harrisvotes.com>

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Mignette Dorsey & family, Melba Robinson & family, Neemon Holcomb & family, the family of Bernadette Pickney, Lucretia Lewis & family, Oralee Fields / Mary Ngwazini and their families, the family of Dorothy Price, Jenny Dangerfield & family, and Athena Hall & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, and Patrina Johnson.

