

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 28, 2024

Focus

There is a splendid moment in Jurassic Park when world-class paleontologist Allen Grant, who has devoted his life to studying dinosaurs, suddenly comes face-to-face with real, live prehistoric creatures. He falls to the ground, dumbstruck. The reason is apparent. It is one thing to piece together an informed but imperfect image of dinosaurs by picking through fossils and bones. But to encounter an actual dinosaur—well, there can be no comparison. Citation: William D. Hendricks, Exit Interviews (Chicago: Moody, 1993) Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion - Perfect Illustrations: For Every Topic and Occasion.

In our Christian walk, we rightfully seek to learn the scriptures, learn to pray, learn to use our spiritual gifts, etc. We are sometimes careful to attend Bible study, small group classes, Sunday worship, and ministry meetings. We seek to consistently function this way because we sincerely desire a closer walk with the Lord. When Moses experienced the glory of the Lord on Mount Zion or his fellowship with the Lord in the tent of meeting, Moses would actually tell God he would rather not go anywhere unless the Lord goes with him, no matter the troubles in the journey ahead. He did not want an angel to lead him, only God (Exodus 33:12:23). When the disciples were with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration, all that mattered was how to have the best worship service ever. Every time a person experiences God's presence, whether it is Isaiah, Paul going to the third heavens, or the elders in Revelation, all that matters is how they can worship and serve. Paul's experience caused him to count all things lost so that his entire focus would be to gain Christ (Philippians 3:1-8), and that is the only mark he was interested in pressing to (Philippians 3:12-16). Because of these experiences, Paul says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed for us." (Romans 8:18). This is because Paul wanted to learn how to live in the power of the resurrection (Philippians 3:9-11) so that in his weakness he could experience Christ's strength (2 Corinthians 12:7-11). Paul's experience of Christ in His glory gave him the confidence to do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

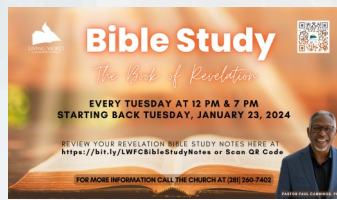
When a person tries to assemble a puzzle, they keep the picture before them while the pieces are put together. In our walk with God, we often focus on the pieces: Bible study, worship, devotions, etc. We need to first focus on God in His majesty, as David would express in Psalm 8. This would cause us to pray differently, trust with more adoration, worship with more reverence and awe, obey God with more humility, and love others with more grace.



UPCOMING Events



FOOLISHNESS OR WISDOM MEN'S EVENT
Join the Kingdom Builders Men's Ministry on Saturday, **May 18, 2024 from 10 a.m.—12 p.m.** for an event focused on household finances. Join us for an eye-opening journey into financial freedom, where we'll uncover the hidden costs of mismanaging household finances and empower you to break free from financial burdens. Discover practical strategies to take control of your money and build a secure future for yourself and your family. For more information contact **Ian Moore at ianmooresr@gmail.com**



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**.



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY GENERATIONS CONFERENCE
Calling all ladies and teen girls, join the Women of Grace Ministry for Our "Generations" Conference & Simulcast, Friday evening May 10th from 6:30-8:30 pm and Saturday May 11th 9:00am-4:00pm
No childcare will be available. Register at <https://bit.ly/3QbmwFU>
For more information email wog77088@gmail.com



FAMILY REUNION T-SHIRTS
Living Word Family, please purchase your Family Reunion T-Shirt for our Family Reunion Fellowship happening on Sunday, June 30th after our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. Purchase now at <https://bit.ly/3xwSnuu>
For more information contact Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown.



LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP
Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5—12. The cost is \$90 per week, and the camp is open from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts & crafts, cooking classes, karate, Christian character building and much more! Register on the events page of the website or call the church **(281) 260-7402**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Sheltered"
Psalm 46:1-7

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

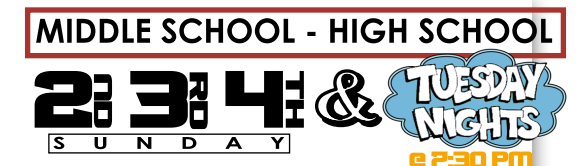
Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

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



**Sheltered
Psalm 46:1-7**

A. Present Help (vs. 1-3):

1. Because God is supreme over everything, sovereign, and can, therefore, decide what He wants to do, He is absolutely the safest place a person can find security on earth and in heaven (Matthew 6:10; Colossians 3:1-4).
2. We experience God's strength when we choose to put on and keep on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-17). We wear God's protection from darts that are coming towards us. This is why if we turn around by choosing not to walk by faith, it causes us to be destroyed (Hebrews 10:36-39).
3. To be 'present' in the scripture means finding what we have been sincerely seeking. The Psalmist states that when we surrender our trust in Him because we fear Him more than our troubles, the protection we have been looking for will be His divine assistance, which means we are totally safe (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14).
4. The Lord is completely committed to assisting us when we are experiencing anguish or unfavorable circumstances. Because of this disposition, He becomes what we are looking for and need when we encounter distressful situations.
5. When our intense circumstances cause us to become very emotional because God is our present help, especially in distressful circumstances, we must decide to expect evil to harm us.

B. Unshakable (vs. 4-5):

1. For those who are committed to experiencing God's presence in their lives, the Holy Spirit is a fresh movement whose fruit produces a spontaneous, festive joy. This is simulated in and through the Lord's church (the city of God, a place where His people dwell).
2. The church in the New Testament is the only place Christ is the head of (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18), the only place that would withstand Satan's actions (Matthew 16:17-19; Ephesians 3:9-11), the only place where believers can grow up to the fullness of God (Ephesians 1:11-13, 16), and the only place that Christ is going to empower to change the world (Ephesians 1:23).
3. No matter how powerful someone may seem, no one compares to how 'exalted, supreme and overwhelmingly majestic God is.' Christ has all things below His feet (Philippians 2:9-11). In His city, He is the only person who is lifted up and the only person who keeps the stream flowing for His citizens (Ephesians 2:19-22).
4. Because God is God, no one can shake Him, cause Him to change His mind, or overpower Him so that He is displaced. Because God cannot be displaced, there is no need for us to fear and more reason for us to trust in Him.

C. We Can Live Courageously (vs. 6-7):

1. None of the world's actions, no matter how powerful its nuclear forces, can change the Word of God or alter God's plans.
2. God's Word is powerful (Hebrews 12:4). When executed, those who hear it, see it unfold, or experience its justice will tremble helplessly and even panic-stricken by its authoritative, dominant force. Pharaoh at the Red Sea, the Walls of Jericho, and the resurrection of Lazarus are just a few examples.
3. David intentionally switched from God to Lord and added Host. He did this to emphasize the might, authority, and power of our covenant-keeping Lord, who, because of His covenant, fights for us as the mightiest, most powerful King that anyone can ever encounter. His covenant binds Him to us. (Romans 8:31; NASU)
4. As our Lord of Host, He is our very high tower, our fortress that is so fortified it is totally inaccessible to anyone or anything that can harm us (Psalm 34:7-10; Hebrews 1:14). This is why He is our refuge, our strength and there is no reason for us to fear. "We can do all things through Christ" (Philippians 4:13) and "in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Hermon Selassie & family, Donnie Emerson & family, and Katarina House & 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, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angeliqne Hudson, and Sheryl Crowe.

Sheltered

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