

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 7, 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 gift, 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 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. Many times in our walk with God, we 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

<p><b>CONTEXT MATTERS</b> Food - Fellowship - Discussions April 27th at 6PM Register Online at: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters">https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters</a></p>	<p><b>CONTEXT MATTERS</b> Have you heard Bible verses used and thought what does it mean for me, or should I use this scripture in my current circumstance? Join us Saturday, April 27th at 6 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary for our Fellowship event, Context Matters. We will have food, entertainment, games, and discussions centered around the Word of God and the importance of using scripture in its proper context. Register on the events page of the website and for more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.</p>
<p><b>Bible Study</b> The Book of Revelation EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM &amp; 7 PM STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 REVIEW YOUR REVELATION BIBLE STUDY NOTES HERE AT: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes">https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes</a></p>	<p><b>REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY</b> Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. &amp; 7 p.m. Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes">https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes</a> See you there to continue our deep dive into the Book of Revelation. For more information call the church at (281) 260-7402.</p>
<p><b>SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER</b> GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS</p>	<p><b>GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS</b> Living Word Family, every weekend in April we have a tremendous opportunity for you to volunteer with Acts 2 Houston for Good Neighbor Days. Good Neighbor Days will serve several communities around Houston every weekend in April. Sign up on the events page of the website or visit The Good Neighbor Days website below <a href="http://www.goodneighboradays.org/houston">www.goodneighboradays.org/houston</a></p>
<p><b>Fellowship Events Team VOLUNTEER TODAY!</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/LWFCEventVolunteers">https://bit.ly/LWFCEventVolunteers</a></p>	<p><b>JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS TEAM</b> Join our Fellowship Events Team. We have several events coming up throughout the year and we need your help! No experience necessary, but you will learn how to pull off a dynamic event with a team. Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact <b>Michelle Lewis</b>.</p>
<p><b>LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP</b> LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ABC WORD ACADEMY</p>	<p><b>LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP</b> 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 &amp; 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</p>



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Friends"

*Psalm 25:12-14*

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

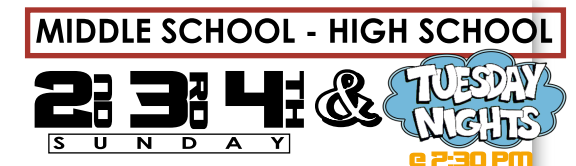
Call to Discipleship

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**



**Friends**  
**Psalm 25:12-14**

**A. Togetherness (v. 12):**

1. Who is in awe of God because they recognize His holiness, might, and power? This person lives in constant reverence of God (Hebrews 12:28-29).
2. The person who lives a revered life because they constantly reflect on who God is understands that the Lord has all authority, desires to be the master of His people's lives, and is not opposed to punishing them (Hebrews 12:16).
3. Because a person lives in constant reverence of the Lord, the Lord controls them so that He continually directs them wherever He wants to lead them. This is a transforming process (Romans 12:2).
4. The man who fears the Lord accepts His instruction and demonstrates his receptiveness to the Lord's divine will (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 2:5).
5. The person whose actions are influenced and directed by God decisively makes careful, well-thought-out, excellent, and acceptable choices that are pleasing to God (Philippians 1:9-11).

**B. Legacy (v. 13):**

1. The person who fears the Lord and continuously lives, day by day, in reverence of who the Lord is forever remains in His favor (Psalm 112:1-3).
2. The person who remains in reverent acknowledgment of God's divine will is guaranteed a pleasant, excellent life and experiences excellent economic well-being.
3. What the Lord chooses to do for the man who fears Him extends to those who are born and live under his leadership (Psalm 112:1-3).

**C. Intimacy (v. 14; Psalm 23):**

1. The Lord shares His confidential, intimate plans with those individuals who fear Him so that they succeed and prosper in all their endeavors. In other words, His will is clearly revealed (1 Corinthians 2:10-15) to those who have come to know Him. Since His Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11), they are guaranteed success (Proverbs 16:3, 9). *"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."* (John 15:15; NASU)
2. The Lord revealing His will so that it becomes an intimate experience of Him only takes place for those who decisively choose to continuously live in reverent awe of Him. Those who are in awe of the Lord recognize His power and authority. These individuals are considered God-fearing believers.
3. The Lord will cause these God-fearing believers to experience (Hebrews 5:14) what is good and bad and to come to an intimate experience of the true meaning of His covenant relationship.
4. God-fearing people coming to know God is the same as Christ instructing His disciples that no matter what they experience in their lives, He will never leave them nor forsake them (Matthew 28:20).
5. Paul tells us that this experience of God moves us to fully surrender our lives to God's full control so that we no longer live (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4) because we become drunk with the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:15-19).

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Andrew Gibson Jr. & family, Mary Bender & family, Cloteil Bolden & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Eric White & family, and Bevelyn Lane & 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, Elvis Anderson, H.D. House JR. Clarence Coleman, Brenda Bonhame, Willie Hosea, Joann Hayes, Carolyn Hadnot, Walter Banks, Cheryl Walker, and Angelique Hudson.