

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 15, 2024

Walk the Walk



“While still a young boy, a certain Christian formed the habit of praying beside his bed before he went to sleep. Later, when he joined the army, he kept up this practice, though he became an object of mockery and ridicule in the barracks. One night, as he knelt to pray after a long, weary march, one of his tormentors took off his muddy boots and threw them at him one at a time, hitting him on each side of his head. The Christian said nothing, took the persecutor’s boots, put them beside the bed, and continued to pray. When the other soldier woke up the next morning, he found his polished and shined boots beside his bed. It so affected him that he asked for forgiveness and after a time became a Christian.” (Green, Michael. Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Baker Book House, 1989. Page 157)

“The Civil War had just ended, and the opportunistic scalawags were busy lording it over their fellow Southerners. A hot-blooded contingency of die-hard former rebels gained an audience with President Lincoln. His gentle, friendly manner soon thawed the ice, and the Southerners left with a new respect for their old foe. A northern congressman approached the president and criticized him for “befriending the enemy,” suggesting that instead of befriending them he should have had them shot for the traitors they were. Lincoln smiled and replied, “Am I not destroying my enemies by making them my friends?” (Green, Michael. Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Baker Book House, 1989. Page 157)

Philippians 4:8-9 states, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace shall be with you."

Believers allow God's love to bless you (John 15:9-14). Allow God's mind, explained through His Word, to guide, transform, and provide you with inner peace (Romans 12:2; John 16:13; Colossians 3:15-16). Allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you (John 16:7) and mature you (Galatians 5:22-26) so that you are blessed as God is glorified daily (Matthew 6:9-13).

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven....If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:43-48; NIV).

Stay focused!!

UPCOMING Events



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE
THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS
Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 5th on the Books of 1st John and Acts. For more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402. Follow along with Bible Study notes on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCT. 7, 2024
1 million registered voters have been unregistered. Please check your registration status and register to vote by the deadline of Oct. 7, 2024. Register in-person at Living Word **Sept. 22nd, 29th & Oct. 6th**. Check your status <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do> Mail-in Ballot Application deadline is **Oct. 25th**. Early voting is **Oct. 21st—Nov. 1st**. **ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5, 2024.**



DRAFT DAY MINISTRY FAIR—SEPT. 29TH
DEACON FAMILY CHURCH PICNIC
ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM
Join us and Invite a friend for our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. followed by our Draft Day Ministry Fair and Church Deacon Family Picnic. Bring your family and invite a friend to spend the day with us at learn more about Living Word. For more information, contact Jeffrey Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CONTEX MATTERS — OCT. 5TH
Join the Fellowship Ministry as we dive deep into the Word of God and the importance of using scripture in its proper context. For more information contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/ContextMattersMusic>



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$75 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more, Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister> or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“No Disrespect”

Ezekiel 2:3-7

Dr. Pierre Cannings

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & **TUESDAY NIGHTS**

SUNDAY **6:30 PM**

No Disrespect
Ezekiel 2:3-7
Dr. Pierre Cannings

I. Straight Disrespect vs. 3-4

- A. Son of Man
 - a. Son of Man
 - 1. The expression “son of” in Hebrew could mean “having the characteristics of). “Son of man,” then, can mean simply “member of humanity.” But characteristic of humanity, and perhaps the focus in its use in Ezekiel, is frailty and mortality, in contrast to the eternality and awesome majesty of God (cf. 31:14 2. The title answers to Ez.’s habit of thought: as a creature he receives from his Creator a designation which is all that a mere man can claim; as a prophet he is the mouth piece, and nothing more, of the divine will
 - b. Sending – Dispatching
- B. Sons of Israel
 - a. Sons of Israel
 - b. Rebellious – Against
 - 1. AGAINST ME
 - 2. The emphasis is on Israel’s disloyalty to Yahweh their God.
 - 3. The primary sense of *marad* is “*refuse allegiance to, rise up against, a sovereign*”;
 - c. They and their Fathers
 - 1. This was before your time
 - d. Transgressed
 - 1. Transgressed
 - a. Second, the term “revolt” (*paša*, v. 3) was the word often translated “*transgress*,” meaning go beyond the bounds proscribed by the law of God, or to betray a trust.
 - 2. AGAINST ME
 - a. To this Very Day

II. Against a Brick Wall v. 5

- A. Sending
 - a. Stubborn - hard > impudent (not showing due respect for another person)
 - 1. Fourth, the term “stubborn” reinforced the third characteristic and is literally “firm [*hizqê*, a synonym of *qêšê*] of heart.” The word “heart” (*lev*) is most often used in the Old Testament to refer to the “will” or center of volition. Thus the people were described as motivated by a fixed, stubborn self-will that dismissed the will of God as irrelevant
 - 2. brazen (lit. hard)-faced. Impassive, with a face that shows no emotion or disconcertion when it should—as when confronting divine Majesty or displeasure
 - b. Obstinate - hard heart and mind
 - 1. Obstinate
 - a. Third, the people were described as “obstinate” (v. 4) or literally “hard [*qêšê*] of face.” This referred to their stubborn selfish will, which totally disregarded the commands of God’s Word.
- B. Say “Thus Says the Lord God”
 - a. Whether they Listen or Not
 - 1. They will know a Prophet has been among them
 - 2. His success would not be measured in terms of the people’s response but in terms of his obedience. Though he was told that no one would welcome his messages from God, the prophet still was responsible for delivering them. Once delivered, the messages placed the burden of response on the people (v. 5).

III. No Fear vs. 6-7

- A. Son of Man
 - a. Do not Fear
 - 1. Fear- Terrible and Words or Deeds
 - b. Hardship
 - 1. Thistles, Thorns, Scorpions
 - a. His congregation was described as “briers and thorns” and “scorpions” (v. 6), terms that allude to their stubborn rebellion and hardened disobedience. Ezekiel would not be held accountable for the people’s lack of receptivity; he was responsible only to speak the words
 - c. Do not be Dismayed
 - 1. Dismayed- Broken
- B. Speak My Words
 - a. Whether They Listen or Not

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

DEACON
FAMILY
FELLOWSHIP

ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM

FOLLOWED BY THE MINISTRY FAIR & DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

WEAR YOUR FAMILY REUNION TSHIRTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Helene Wardlow & family, Karen Carter & family, Marie Perry & family, Melita Washington & family, Patsy Moore & family, Elaine Bates & family, and Launette Chan, Mya Griffith & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, 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, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, and Robert Edwards.

