

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 3, 2025

A True Friend

The story is told of a little boy who was playing in his parent's back yard. While playing he rolled a log over and became excited to find what he thought were worms. He became so occupied with these "worms" that he ignored the constant sting he felt. His mother, who came to the back door to check on him, saw him in the corner of the back yard and went to see what he was doing. She immediately recognized that the "worms" he was playing with were really small snakes. The mother immediately pulls the boy away. The boy becomes angry and starts crying. The mother screams so loud that the boy's father comes running. The father kills the snakes, and within minutes the boy was in the emergency room, now swollen feeling the sting from the snake bites. After becoming weak from the poison given off by the snakes, the doctors, nurses and medical technicians focus on saving his life.

Many young people make their enemy their friend. They enjoy the world and all it has to offer. They want to go to all the parties, dress in the newest fashions, become sexually active and stay out late like their friends. All that matters is that they need to have fun. By loving the world, they soon lose the desire to obey God (I John 2:15-17). Obeying God becomes boring or unattractive, and their Christian parents become difficult to live with.

James says; "....., don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:4; NIV; Mark 8:34-38) Like the little boy it seems fun and harmless to play with the snakes. Because of a lack of knowledge, or because they choose not to listen to their parents or youth minister, their decisions may seem at the time to be harmless. However, their passions deceive them into thinking that having fun with friends (who may not be believers) is harmless (James 1:13-17). By doing so, Jesus becomes their enemy (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; enemy because Christ opposes their decisions) because they made Satan their friend. A rat sees the cheese, not the trap. "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for His friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you." (John 15:13-14)

To the little boy the little snakes are his friends and fun to play with. His parents and medical staff are the enemy. His parents pulled him away from "fun" and what the medical staff is doing may seem painful while the entire time they are both trying to save his life.

God is the best friend we can ever have. This is why we must trust Him and abide in His Word (Psalm 1; 119:9-11, 105; Proverbs 4:20-27). This way the enemy remains the enemy and the friend a true friend.



UPCOMING Events

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
12PM & 7PM Small Group Discussions Include
SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS & OVERCOMING STRUGGLES

CFCL — AUGUST 5TH
Join us for our last CFCL, on August 5th. Our 12PM Noon session will be **Life After Death: Moving on After Something Has Died in Your Life** by Dr. Aaron Lavender. 7PM Sessions will include **The Power of a Man's Presence** by Ian Moore, Sr. and **The Power of a Woman's Voice** by Mignette Doresey.

SUMMER TECH SERIES
AUGUST 8TH 6:00 - 8:00 PM
NETWORK+ CERTIFICATION
FREE IT TRAINING SERIES

IT CERTIFICATION SERIES—AUGUST 8TH
Our IT Certification series continues this Friday, Aug. 8th at 6PM. Network+ certification course is designed to provide individuals with the foundational knowledge and practical skills to computer networks. Register online and contact Kenneth Dabney or Sharon Daniel for more details.

Men's Ministry Presents
COURAGEOUS
Four Men | Family | Faith
August 16th at 11am | Youth Room

MEN'S MINISTRY—SAT. AUGUST 16TH
Join the Men's Ministry, Saturday Aug. 16th at 11AM as we watch the film *Courageous*, a gripping film about 4 men fighting for their family and standing firm in their faith. Afterwards, there will be small group discussions. Contact Ian Moore, Sr. at ianmooresr@gmail.com for more details.

LIT
Deacon Family Fellowship & Ministry Fair
Sunday August 31st
One Service at 9:30AM

Deacon Family Fellowship & Ministry Fair — Lets end youth Month 2025 with a bang on Sunday, August 31st. We'll have our next Deacon Family Fellowship and Ministry Fair! Join us for one service at 9:30AM and then fellowship, eat, and learn about a new ministry at Living Word. Contact your Deacon family for information on how to serve and what to bring.

YOUTH CHOIR
INTERESTED IN JOINING THE YOUTH CHOIR?
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS KINSEY AND FILL OUT THE FORM AT bit.ly/4mxy47g

YOUTH CHIOR—
If your youth has a passion for singing, please encourage them to use their gifts and passions for the Lord. Sign— up for the Youth Choir online and contact Chris Kinsey at Christopherkinsey@gmail.com for more information on the Youth Choir and how your youth can be a part.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Opening Song
- Communion
- Welcome Video
- Praise & Worship
- Worship In Giving
- Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses
- Visitor's Welcome
- Special Music
- "Mindset"
- Psalm 119:9-11, 105
- 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

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2 3 4 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Mindset

Psalm 119:9-11, 105

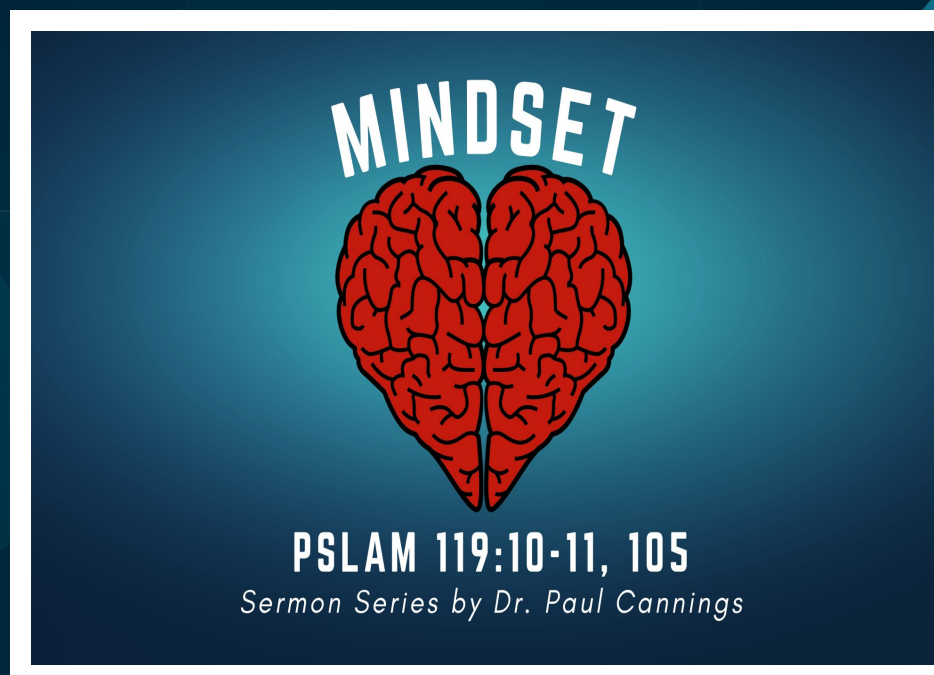
A. Remain sober (v. 9; 1 Peter 1: 13-160)

B. View the Word as User Friendly (vs. 11-12)

For Full Sermon Notes

Please Visit

lwfellowshipchurch.org/sermon-notes



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, and the family of Beverly Shaw.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, 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, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, and Donna Ross.

MINDSET



PSALM 119:9-11, 105