

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 27, 2024

Walk in the Light



The church's love for God was exposed when Covid 19 impacted the world. People packed planes and sports games, went back to work, but not to the church. This voting season has also exposed the church. To see the hatred, anger, and polarization that our churches are demonstrating is mind-boggling. It is interesting to note, in the scriptures, that the Lord does not pick sides. In other words, He does not ride donkeys or elephants. When the Lord of Host confronted Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15), the Lord demanded that Joshua do what He said. When Jesus was physically on earth, He clearly stated, "He is the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6).

We rely more on common sense, driven by media commentators, in critical times than seeking the Lord. The scriptures are clear that the Lord has provided us "everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3-4; 'everything'). So, scripture is not silent (Hebrews 1:1-3). Who a candidate demonstrates themselves to be can be evaluated by the scriptures. We are commanded by God to "test every spirit." (1 John 4:1-2; notice it is a small 's'), not to believe every spirit because of who they say they are or how much sense they seem to make. Our trust is required to be of God first, not a person. This is why the passage in Proverbs 3:5 starts with "Trust in the Lord with **all your heart**...."; notice 'all your heart'; not some (heart – not following our emotions; Romans 6:12-14). Our reliance is on His wisdom, not ours. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the One who catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless." (1 Corinthians 3:19-20; NASU)

Knowing who a person says they are is based on how the scripture directs us to decide the nature of a person. The scriptures instruct us to look at the fruit that comes from their life (Matthew 7:16-20). Many people looked up to the High Priest in Jesus, but Christ had an entirely different truth (Matthew 23). The disciples thought Judas was a great person, but Christ sees his heart (John 17:12). This is why the scripture says, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart." (Luke 6:45; NASU) This is why, for us to see the truth, we must walk in the light. It is Christ who is the Light (John 1:6-7). When we faithfully practice His Word, we walk in the light (Hebrews 5:14), and instead of hating one another, we have peace (1 John 1:5-7; 2:9-10). As we mature, we become light (Matthew 5:14-16).

Be The Light!

UPCOMING Events



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE
THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS
 Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 19th 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



SKATING PARTY FOR ALL AGES—11/2/2024
 Join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adults Ministry for a Skating Party for all ages. This Family event will be Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Skate Champions Roller Rink at 5504 Fellowship Ln, Spring, TX 77379. For more information contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org
 Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/LEGITskatingNov2024>



HARVEST FEST 2024—OCTOBER 31ST 6 PM
 Join us for a fun-filled festival on October 31, 2024 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Living Word Fellowship Church. FREE food, fun, games, candy, slaunted house, and much more! **DONATE CANDY** in the foyer or in the Children's Ministry to volunteer. For more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org or **Sylvia Edwards** at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org



VETERANS BRUNCH—SAT. NOV. 9TH 10 AM
 Attention Living Word Fellowship Veterans! The Veterans Faith Initiative in collaboration with LWFC will host a Veterans Appreciation Brunch in honor of your service to our country. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship for the purpose of restored camaraderie and creation of new or renewed friendships in service. Please register at <https://bit.ly/VeteransBrunch2024> For more information contact **Deacon Reginald Parker** at (832) 791-2614



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

"Donkeys and Elephants??"

1 Samuel 8-9; 16:1-11; Joshua 5:13-15; Deut. 16:18-20; 1 Samuel 24:8-22; Matthew 5:13-16

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



Donkeys and Elephants??

1 Samuel 8-9; 16:1-11; Joshua 5:13-15;

Deut. 16:18-20; 1 Samuel 24:8-22; Matthew 5:13-16

A. We are in a time when the church is repeating Biblical history and leaning on civic leaders to lead our country and world (1 Samuel 8-9; 16:1-11). God, by His sovereign will, has focused the progressive development of His kingdom agenda through two organisms: the family and church. Through these two organisms, He creates tribes (nations), and through the church, He influences these tribes (requires the church to be led through those who manage their homes well; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) to the world.

1. Christ's commitment is to two things: family (Gen. 2:15-25; Eph. 5:32), the Church (Eph. 1:22-23).

B. The Lord does not take sides. The Lord views Himself as the only hope to save the world (Lord of Host, Joshua 5:13-15 – God is THE warrior who fights cosmic forces and human conflicts). It was up to Joshua and the people to determine whether they would be an active part of God's righteous movement in creating a path for His people while seeking to save those who were lost (John 3:16; Luke 19:10).

C. God directs us to be responsible in deciding who leads us in civil matters (Deut. 16:18-20). The choice must be of those who practice justice. Who we are to Him (Jews under a spiritual leader, Moses) determines whether those who lead would be influenced by God's righteous (Justice) nature and not by bribes.

D. The Lord only works through men and women of character even if they are imperfect (1 Samuel 24:8-22).

1. David was a man after God's own heart, but he did not always make all the right decisions:
 a) Nabal (1 Samuel 25:14-35).
 b) Counting the people of Israel (1 Samuel 24:1-25).

E. The Word of God is clear on abortion (Psalm 51:5; Psalm 127:3; it is taking a defenseless person's life of a person who you are not at war with, so it is murder), and homosexuality (Jude 7; Romans 1:26-27). However, God gave people free will. Even under the conditional system of the Old Testament, God told them they had a choice (Deuteronomy 28). Now, He describes the consequences (Deut. 28). This is modeled by Christ, who did not force people to accept Him (John 1:9-13). This is because, by free will, a person can decide to do whatever they want but cannot control the results.

1. Free will are incidents that God did not stop:

a) Herod, in his anger, killed all the children two years and below in Bethlehem (this is based on Christ's birth).
 b) Jezebel killed many prophets leading to Elijah running away in disobedience to God. She decided what she wanted to do but could not control the consequences.
 c) Many in their free will, brutalized and killed Christ, but "all things work together for the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28)

2. When we create more laws, the scripture says all we become exposed to is the gravity of our depraved character (Romans 3:19-20).

F. The church is God's answer to bringing about change in our homes, communities, and the world:

1. It is the church that is the pillar of truth (1 Tim. 3:15), and it is only the Holy Spirit that can expose the truth of God to us (John 14:16-17; Matthew 16:13-16; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15) be the light (Ps. 119:105).

a) Christ as THE Word is the Light (John 1:6-8), and it is that light that we must walk in (1 John 1:5-7) that would reduce hate (1 John 2:9-11), keep us pure (1 John 1:5-7), and provide us guidance for everything we need to do so that we live in the light and be the light (Ps. 119:105).

2. We are now the light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

3. We are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13-16), and we are the ones who preserve it.

a) We are just like the nation of Israel (Deut. 8:11-18), God blesses us and we chase the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17) as we lose our soul (Luke 9:23-27; Mark 8:34-38).

G. God has yet to have a perfect leader who made all the decisions He desired them to make, whether they were civic or spiritual leaders.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Robert James & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Terrance Ford & family, Cheryl Beal & family, Margaret Jefferson & family, Phillip Baillou & family, Mary Wheatley & Family, Ashley Gipson & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Roderick Williams & family & the family of Birdie Williams.

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, 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, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, and Beatrice Williams.

donkeys & elephants ???



1 SAMUEL 8-9; 16:1-11; JOSHUA 5:13-15;
 DEUT. 16:18-20; 1 SAMUEL 24:8-22;
 MATTHEW 5:13-16