

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 17, 2024

God's Perfect Will

The decision that the country made on November 5th has made some people excited, while others are bewildered, depressed, or filled with anxiety. The democratic system is what it is; God's will is perfect. The question for those concerned is what God's will is in these times because His directive to us is to "trust Him and not lean to our understanding." (Proverbs 3:5-6). How does this work?

When David was in the presence of Abimelech and was very afraid for his life, David expressed his commitment to trust God in Psalm 34:1-3 and to seek the Lord and to trust that God will answer His prayers and deliver him from all his troubles (Psalm 34:4). David also reminded himself that "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them." (Psalm 34:7) Why is this important? It is because when our fears are only towards God, David says His Shepherding blesses us. "O fear the Lord you His saints; for to those who fear Him there is no want." (Psalm 34:9)

During the horrific experiences of believers under Nero (no intent to call the new administration Nero even though racial violence increased under the first administration, as stated by federal records), Peter instructed the believers to "submit yourselves for the Lord's sake, to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as by Him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God, that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men." (1 Peter 2:13-15)

I can hear some of you say, "Who are the evil men?" - lol. Psalm 37:7-9 says, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land."

No matter what was decided on November 5th, "we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God to those who are called according to His purposes." (Romans 8:28)

Stay focused and pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)!!



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



THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY SIGN UP WITH YOUR DEACON FAMILY
Living Word Family, please sign up to bring Thanksgiving Basket items with your Deacon Family by visiting the Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway page on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/thanksgiving For more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



THANKSGIVING FEAST—NOV. 24, 2024
Living Word Family, join us for a special Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Invite a friend or a family member to service with you. Immediately following service, join us for our annual Thanksgiving Feast in the Legacy Sanctuary. Sign up to volunteer on the events page of the website.



THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Please sign up to Volunteer for the Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway on November 23, 2024 & The Thanksgiving Feast on Sunday, November 24, 2024 after ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. For More information contact Keron brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$89 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/ABCWordRegister> or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"King in Question"

John 18:28-40

Pierre Cannings, Ph.D.

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

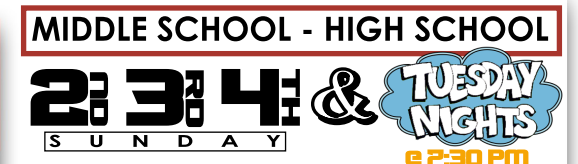
Please remain seated at this time

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



**King in Question
John 18:28-40**

I. King Accused vs. 28-32

- a. Place
 - i. Praetorium - a Roman official who resided as the supreme administrator and judge of a region.
 - ii. The praetorium where they led Jesus was the official headquarters, judgment seat, and command center of the military leader in an area
- b. Time
 - i. Moreover, if the Jewish leaders were to carry through their plan of expediting the execution of Jesus before the Passover festival, there was no time to be lost.
- c. People
 - i. Sanhedrin, some of whom were quite certainly of high-priestly rank (so explicitly 19:6, 15).
- d. Action
 - i. Defile - **to cause to be ritually impure, stain, defile**
 - 1. Ironic contrast between the Jews who were seeking Jesus's death and their unwillingness to enter the praetorium for fear of defiling themselves lest they would not be able to eat the Passover
 - ii. Passover
 - 1. No more eloquent example than this can be found of the ability of religious people to be meticulous about external regulations of religion while being wholly at variance with God
 - iii. Accusations
 - 1. Evildoer - τὸ κακόν evil, wrong what is contrary to custom or law
 - 2. Take Him yourself
 - a. If by their answer they wished to give the impression that Jesus was offending against their laws, let them judge him according to those laws
 - iv. Fulfill the word of Jesus
 - 1. Fulfill - of the fulfillment of divine predictions or promises
 - 2. The idea of lifting up and hanging on a tree would obviously be interpreted in reference to the Roman punishment of crucifixion rather than the Jewish punishment of stoning.

II. King in Question vs. 33-37

- a. Jesus
 - i. Kingdom - **one who possesses unusual or transcendent power**
 - a. that βασιλεία, like the Hebrew malkûth and the Aramaic malkûtha, means "sovereign rule
 - b. But the moot word there is "directly"; for if Jesus talks about his "kingdom" he really means his sovereign rule, his kingly activity, i.e., his action in his capacity as the king who brings salvation.
 - ii. Not of this world
 - a. Jesus' answer (note that Mark 14:62 expounds the affirmation of Messiahship in terms of the Son of Man of Dan 7:13, who is to come in theophanic glory, and to be revealed as the Lord at God's right hand of Ps 110:1
 - iii. My servants would be fighting
 - a. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my officers (ὑπηρέται) be striving, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews," i.e. the hostile Jews, as regularly in Jn. (see on 5:10).
 - iv. King
 - a. Born King
 - b. Come to this world - To Testify
 - i. But his kingship was intimately tied to his mission. His coming into the world was to be a witness or testifier to the truth.
 - c. The Truth
 - i. Jesus' mission was to integrate truth into life. That is the reason the text here defines people who are of truth as those who hear the voice of Jesus. Hearing or obeying Jesus is not the same as affirming correct ideas
 - d. Who is of Truth - Hears My Voice

III. True King vs. 38-42

- a. What is Truth
- b. I find no guilt
 - i. But it is also most probable that he was at that point convinced that this Jesus offered no threat to Roman political authority in that region. That was hardly the point of the Jewish leadership's concern.
- c. Jewish Custom
 - i. Release for you at Passover
 - ii. Wish to release the King of the Jews



Angel Tree
Donations Due Nov. 27th

Living Word Fellowship Church | Angel Tree: A Program of Prison Fellowship

Come visit the Angel Tree table on November 17, 2024 after first service in LWFC Main Sanctuary foyer and after second service in the LWFC Legacy foyer to select a child's name for a much appreciated gift. Volunteers are also needed for gift wrapping. Sign up sheets will also be available.

Join us immediately after service on November 17th to collect your child's Angel Tree card.

For More Information, contact Janice Brown at jrbrown_lw@att.net

One gift per child is required. Unwrapped purchased gifts only.



NOVEMBER 23, 2024

THE REACH

THANKSGIVING
Deacon Family Sign-Up

SIGN UP FOR BASKET ITEMS

<https://bit.ly/3BCd3Df>

7350 W. TC JESTER BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77088

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mary Wheatley & Family, Ashley Gipson & family, Roderick Williams & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Curtis Wiley & family, the family of Birdie Williams, Patsy Gatterson and family, and Olivia Hamilton & family.

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, Beatrice Williams, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.



King in Question

JOHN 18:28-40

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