

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 19, 2025



The Act of Love

A class of little girls was learning to spell. They spelled several small words, such as "pig," "cat," "dog," "cow," and amused themselves by imitating the sounds that these animals make. Then little Mary was asked to spell "love". She didn't stop to give the letters, but ran and threw her arms around the teacher's neck, and kissed her on the cheek. "We spell 'love' that way at our house," she said. The girls laughed, but the teacher said, "That is a beautiful way, but do you know another way to spell 'love'?" "Oh, "yes," cried Mary, "I spell love this way," and she began to put the books in order on her teacher's desk. "I spell love by helping everybody when they need me." (from Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

Love is an act of obedience to God; "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15-16; NIV). It is when we keep His commandments that we experience God's love; "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love" (John 15:10-11; NIV). God's Word is His covenanted love for man (1 John 2:3-6).

Two little boys were each given a box of chocolates by their grandfather. The first boy took the package into his bedroom, tore into it, and stuffed the candies into his mouth until he was one big mess of smeared chocolate. Because of his love for his grandfather, the other boy unwrapped his package there in front of his grandfather. He opened the box and looked at all the candies. Then he raised the box to his grandfather and said, "Thank you for giving me this candy. Here, you have the first piece." (Source: Morgan, Robert J. Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, & Quotes p341)

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Love is an act. Acts of love make the word love, when spoken, substantive. Those around us know what we mean by what we do. It is the same with the Lord.

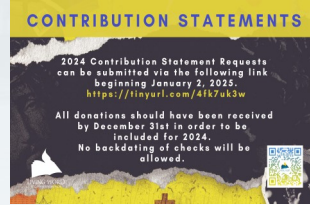
Loving God is more than singing a song (1 John 3:18) or attending church. It is obeying Him by serving (1 Peter 4:10), by loving others who may not, but someone's standards, be lovable (Matthew 22:36-40; 5:43-48; the Book of Hosea), and by giving to Him from our very best. ".....Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver....." (2 Corinthians 9:6-15) This is because a sincere giver obeys God (John 14:15) and therefore experiences His love (John 15:10-11).

Giving is an act of loving appreciation to God, which is why it is an offering (Exodus 35:20-29). Prayerfully, when offered, God accepts it (Haggai 1:2-11). Giving is a matter of the heart.

UPCOMING Events



UMT MLK DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
The Urban Missions Team invites you to come out and volunteer tomorrow from 11 a.m.—3 p.m. for a MLK Unity Day with Restoration Community Church at 6320 New York St. Houston, TX 77021. For more information, contact Natividad Smith at nds_smith@yahoo.com. Register at www.rcdchouston.org/volunteer-form



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS
2024 Contribution Statement requests can be submitted via the below link
<https://tinyurl.com/4fk7uk3w>
All donations included should have been received by December 31st, 2024 in order to be included for 2024 Taxes. For more information, call the church at (281) 260-7402



LWFC KIDZ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
If you are interested in volunteering at either 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. services for the LWFC Kidz Ministry assisting with check-ins at least once a month, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at 281-260-7402 or at sylvia.edwards@lwfcfellowshipchurch.org. No experienced necessary.



SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME
Join the Prayer Ministry every Sunday morning for Prayer Time at 7:30 a.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Also join the Prayer Call every Monday evening at 7 p.m. **ZOOM MEETING ID: 776-2097-8265** Password: PRAY!
For More Information, Contact Tomitra Wiley at tomitraw@sbcglobal.net



JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP
Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the BAND APP to stay connected. WE have an exciting year planned for our youth and we don't want you to miss a single event or activity. Use the link below to join:
<https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO>
For more information, contact Angela Holmes at angholmes32@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Endless Supply"
Proverbs 8:17-21

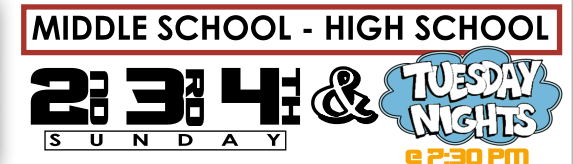
Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

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



Endless Supply
Proverbs 8:17-21

A. Begins with Loving God More Than Ourselves - Wisdom
(v. 17; Matthew 22:36-40):

1. God vehemently is actively determined to provide His unspeakable love and tender mercy to all those who willfully decide to have the same desire towards Him. Those who love God will be loved (John 14:15; 15:7-10; 1 John 2:4-5).
2. It is not just knowing the Word (all that does is make us puffed up; 1 Corinthians 8:1-2, e.g. Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes) it is are we going to keep the Word (continue to obey it; John 15:1-5) when our life experiences, trauma of life, our world view, what parents or grandparents taught us, conflicts with what the Lord says (Luke 14:26-27)? This is when the Spirit, Who came to guide us into truth (John 14:16-17) leads us to wisdom.
3. Experiencing God's love is also provided to those believers who actively seek the Lord for wisdom, spiritual understanding of His Word, and godly advice for the decisions they may be challenged to address. These believers, because of their purposeful search to experience the will of the Lord, are guaranteed, by the Word of God, that they will find Him.
4. Giving is an expression of love that is representative of our relationship with God when no one is looking (Matthew 22:36-40; Luke 14:26-29).
5. If we have a hard time giving, we vividly demonstrate, we do not trust Him at the very core of what it takes to sustain our lives; His life in us.

B. Giving Shows Respect for the Owner of All Things
(vs. 18-19; Job 1:20-22):

1. God is emphatically stating that money, land, material possessions, and all wealth are all in His control (Ps 112:3; cf. Prov 10:22; 1 Sam 2:7 [Hannah's psalm]), the reward of humble faith; Prov 22:4).
2. The wealth and riches that the Lord provides do not fade away, nor decay, and it lasts for a time and we are blessed with greater rewards in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20; Revelation 3:15-18).
3. Believers committed to completely surrender their lives to the Lord live by faith and not by sight and, like Job, in the eyes of the Lord, are committed to live righteously. They demonstrate a commitment to the standards of God no matter the cost.
4. In the case of Job, God shows how He blesses the righteous —the same with Abraham in Genesis 14:17-24.
5. God uses 'fruit' when He compares His blessings with gold. Fruit depends on first being able to have the seed (He is the owner of all things), it must be planted in His soil. It depends on His rain to produce fruit and it can be a constant supply. This is why it is better than gold.
6. Whatever a believer gains from the Lord is better than the most excellent of riches and any one can achieve on their own. It is definitely more secure.

C. Righteousness Keeps Our Accounts Full
(vs. 20-21; 2 Corinthians 9:10):

1. Every action that the Lord takes is continuously on a path of integrity, steadfastly faithful to His Word, and all His decisions are just.
2. Because God owns everything, and it is because of His righteousness imputed into us, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we can live right before Him, RIGHTEOUSNESS is the GATEWAY to blessings. (Psalm 112:1-3)
3. Endow is a guaranteed inheritance from heaven to earth.
4. Like the widow in 1 Kings 17:1-16 the Lord continuously, with no end in sight, promises to keep filling up, to the point of an overflow, all the places of value that a person may have.
5. "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return" (Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10; NASU). This is why you cannot rob God (Malachi 3:8)
6. Because God processes all riches and honor that endures forever, all those who chose to live with a deep commitment to His Word and because of their obedience faithfully give to the Lord, the Lord promises to endlessly bless them.



CELEBRATE
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
JANUARY 20TH
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED 1/20/25

URBAN MISSIONS TEAM
DAY OF SERVICE & UNITY
MONDAY
JANUARY 20TH
11AM - 3 PM
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
RESTORATION COMMUNITY CHURCH
6320 NEW YORK ST HOUSTON, TX 77021
Register at <https://www.rcdchouston.org/volunteer-form>
BRING NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHES & SHOES TO DONATE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT NATIVIDAD SMITH AT NDS_SMITH@YAHOO.COM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson and their families, Randy Hadnot & family, Lucretia Lewis & family, and Joyce Hayes & 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, 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.

ENDLESS SUPPLY
PROVERBS 8:17-21

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston |

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