

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 23, 2025



God-Shaped

Amid all the hate and division in our culture, where is your heart as a believer? Is it rooted in ideologies, cultural bias, political party affiliations, or the scriptures? One of the many things I admire about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech was not just to stop racial prejudice, but also that all people be evaluated not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I love this statement because it is no different than what Christ advocated, as the scriptures delineated. He did this because He came to die for the world (John 3:16; He charged the disciples to go into the world; Acts 1:8). When we all stand before Him, it is not about our skin color or earthly achievements. He will separate us as sheep from goats (Matthew 25:31-46), rewarding us for our actions, whether "good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

God modeled this in the Old Testament when He accepted a non-Jew, named Rahab, to become a part of those who entered the Promised Land and be in the line of Christ. God became upset at Miriam when she responded negatively to Moses marrying a Cushite (Numbers 12:1) and Christ sent Stephen to share the gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), which were the same people that Zephaniah called worshippers of God (Zephaniah 3:10). This is because throughout the Old Testament people of African descent are everywhere. Paul traveled to Corinth, Rome (1st and 2nd Corinthians and Romans), and many other European countries. There was no need to spend much time going to African nations because they were already engrossed in Judaism and Christianity. So, it is undeniable that our culture or our politics do not influence the Godhead. They came to save all of their children since every child is a gift from God (Psalm 127:3), and everyone is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). "..... since He Himself gives all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation." (Acts 17:26) Peter puts it another way, "....I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him." (Acts 10:34-35)

To hate is to display the true nature of our relationship with the Lord (Matthew 22:36-40). Beyond the great worship services and the pleasant hellos, it describes how well the Lord has shaped our hearts (Romans 12:9-21). "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness;" (1 John 2:9-11; NIV)

UPCOMING Events



COLLEGE RETREAT — FEB. 28TH - MAR. 2ND
Attention all College students, join us in Woodlake, TX for our annual College Retreat. The cost is \$50 per person. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with other students, spend one-on-one time with God in nature, and have a fantastic time! Bring comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, and additional money for road trip food! For more details, contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LET'S GET FIT — MARCH 1ST
Join the Women of Grace and Faith & Fitness ministries as they collaborate together to transform your mind and bodies. Wear comfortable work out clothes and bring your Bible as we aim to get spiritually and physically fit for 2025! Register at <https://bit.ly/WomensGETFITMarch2025> or on the events page of the website. For more information email wog770882gmail.com.



FEBRUARY IS PURITY MONTH
Legacy Youth join us each Tuesday night at 7PM as we dive into open discussions, and learn what it truly means to live with "purpose, purity, and faith"
PURITY MONTH BANQUET — FEBRUARY 24TH
If you have attended 2 or more Purity Month sessions, join us for our Purity Month Banquet. Please register at <https://bit.ly/PurityBanquet> and contact **Angela Holmes** at angholmes32@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP TRAINING SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 8:30 AM
All elders, pastors, deacons, ministry leaders and coordinators, minister, and staff, join us for our first Leadership Training of 2025. Leaders your attendance is required as we plan, execute vision, and prepare for our year of Light In Truth (LIT). Please register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCLeadershipMarch2025> or on the events page of the website.



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

"While You Wait"

Exodus 3:7-9

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



While You Wait Exodus 3:7-9

A. Divine Intervention (v. 7):

1. The Lord responds not because Israel earned it, but because He promised it.
2. God had an intricate knowledge and a clear understanding of all His people went through in Egypt. God's long timeline is not a symbol of His absence; it was a part of His strategic plan.
3. God clearly understood all that was taking place. They experienced excruciating punishments and mental and physical abuse, including emotional pain. In the midst of all of this abuse, they were defenseless. God witnessed everything.
4. God took what was taking place in Egypt very personally because it was happening to His people. Just like Israel, we are His people (Ephesians 2:11-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
5. When we pray, it is not that God does not hear us; He does [Christ is our High Priest. He is in His presence (Hebrews 8:1-2) with all power in His hands (Philippians 2:8-11)], and His promises are sure. Daniel may have felt the same way (Daniel 9:20-23).
6. God not only cognitively knows of their mental and physical anguish; He completely feels what they are experiencing. *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (Hebrew 4:14-16; NASU)
7. Our pain and difficulty can make us feel like God is absent; God teaches us in this passage He is always present because His covenant is sure (Christ's death on the cross), as a result His promises never fail.
8. We must be like Job and trust God in the good and the bad (Job 2:10) while He tells us to wait (Isaiah 40:28-31).

"There is an appointed time for everything....." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9)

B. It's On Him (v. 8):

1. He uses the word 'I,' which means this is totally dependent upon Him. The Lord is personally coming to Egypt with all His military might to deliver Israel (Israel being slaves, not allowed to carry any weapons, had no army).
2. The strength of the Egyptian army does not supersede the might of God, so a victory over Egypt is guaranteed. When God decided to take control of His people, there was nothing Egypt could do to stop His deliverance.
3. God's deliverance is a time to worship.
4. Israel with unanimity prayed to God in despair and in anguish to God. God said they did so to 'Me.' When we abide in His Word and trust His promises, we remain in His love, and He answers the desires of our hearts (John 15:7-10).
5. When God does not seem to answer our prayers, it does not mean He did not hear and completely understand our pain. He knows and is completely aware of all that is before Him.
6. We must view ourselves as unable to fight Satan (Egypt is the most powerful nation in the known world) and, as a result, become absorbed in praying to Him for deliverance (Luke 18:1-8).
7. It may seem like those who abuse us are getting away with evil. God promises that they are not
8. *"The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all."* (Psalm 34:16-19; Psalm 37; NASU)

"Don't become weary in well doing....." (Galatians 6:9-10)

Scan For Full Notes




LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING

CLASSES BEGIN
WEDNESDAY FEB. 26TH

TO REGISTER & PAY CONTACT CHRISTALYN WILLIAMS AT
CHRISTALYNLCSW@CHRISTALYNHOPE.COM



WOMEN OF GRACE & FAITH & FITNESS MINISTRIES PRESENT

LET'S GET FIT

a physical & spiritual wellness event

March 1, 2025 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wear Your Workout Attire & Bring Your Bibles

Register at <https://bit.ly/WomensGETFITMarch2025>
For more information email Women of Grace at wog77088@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Jon Heard & family, Marcia Anderson & family, the family of Vivian Phillips, Judah David & family, Sylvia Edwards & family, Jeffrey and Charlotte Allen & family, and Lula Hayes & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patriona Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Robert Edwards, Evelyn Harvey, Susie Farley and Maverick Everson Malveaux.

CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHILE
YOU
WAIT

EXODUS 3:7-9

