

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR – May 2022

Devotional Thought - 'Why Do We Love God?'

Deuteronomy 6:5 teaches us that the chief commandment is that we 'love the Lord our God with our heart, soul, mind and strength.' As question one of the Westminster Catechism reminds us, the chief end (purpose) of man is to delight in God and enjoy him forever. Of course, when we think about the call to love God, we know that there are many reasons for us to enjoy and delight in him. We love Him for His gracious gift of Creation. Despite what some recently written worship songs may suggest, the triune God did not need us or have to create us. This was all an act of love and grace. We praise Him for His mighty acts of providence over His creation. Even more so, we exalt Him for His great and mysterious plan of salvation. By grace and through faith in Christ, He has redeemed us from our enslavement to sin in order that we may know Him and love Him as we were created to. Oh, how our God is to be praised! There is none who is more worthy of our affection, trust, and obedience!

However, as we ponder the Great Commandment, there is another important truth that we must be confronted with. True love for God does not begin with the appreciation of what God has done for us. Rather, we must first and foremost delight in God because of who God is.

The scriptures teach us that the Triune God is the most excellent being. He is without beginning or end, and perfect in power, wisdom and goodness. And yet, as the puritan pastor Jonathan Edwards once wrote, 'a true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness, and not with a delight in any other attribute; for no other attribute is truly lovely without this.'

God's Holiness is not an attribute. Rather, it defines His entire being. His power is transcendent! His wisdom is transcendent! His mercy is transcendent! We can go on and on. God will always be completely pure, transcendent and separate from all other things. This transcendence and purity demands awe and praise.

Are we growing in love for God? Do we praise God first and foremost for who He is? Or simply just for what He has done for us? May the Spirit enable us to more and more obey this great commandment!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LBC

Wednesday Evening Bible Study – Please join us as we begin a study on the book of Habakkuk. Our study will begin on May 11th and will conclude by June 1st. You are encouraged to read through Habakkuk before our study begins. The studies continue to be held at LBC at 7:30pm.

Covid Restrictions- Social distancing and masks are no longer required at the church. However, we want to be respectful and mindful of people who still prefer to wear them at this time. We will also continue to set apart the back fellowship area as a socially distanced area.

Sunday School Program – We are seeking to implement a Sunday school program for all kids up to Grade 3. See Pastor Eric or one of the deacons to learn more about this pressing opportunity.

Ladies 'High Tea' Event – All ladies are invited to attend a special 'High Tea' event taking place at the Pinehill Apartments on May 7th. Please stay tuned for further details!

"More than Enough" Financial Seminar -This event will be held at LBC and is taking place on May 12th at 7pm. The 90 minute seminar will teach on how to handle important financial issues such as debt, mortgages, savings and budgets from a biblical understanding of stewardship. All are invited! Child care will be provided. **Further details will be emailed out!**

Evening Service – Please join us on Sunday May 29th at 7pm for a time of corporate worship, teaching and prayer.

Lanark Baptist Facebook Page – Continue to check out our Facebook page where resources, sermons and other important information will be posted. Stay tuned for an upcoming Lanark Baptist YouTube page!