

"Make It Plain" Newsletter

"Commitment is a pledge or promise; obligation or an agreement or pledge to do something in the future."



Welcome!

Welcome to our Living Word Church Newsletter entitled "Make It Plain". The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge and insight for God's people. It also promotes spiritual growth by addressing a wide variety of Christian topics. We hope and pray that this newsletter will bless you spiritually.

Commitment

In life, we make many commitments... commitments to our spouses, family members, churches, jobs, friends, etc. Although we make and have many commitments, we do not really know the meaning of a commitment. By definition, a commitment is a pledge or promise; obligation or an agreement or pledge to do something in the future. Therefore, when we make commitments, we are promising to do something and should uphold that promise because it shows integrity and character.

For the purpose of this article, let's examine our greatest commitment; our commitment to the faith. Are we truly committed to God? Are we committed to the church/ministry? These are questions that Christians should ask themselves daily to keep their ultimate responsibility in the forefront of their minds. In our lives, we've added so many other responsibilities and activities that provide nothing but temporal satisfaction, yet we neglect the very activity that will provide joy everlasting. However, this comes as no surprise, the Bible tells us in II Timothy 2:13, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." This passage of scripture lets us know that man will continue to seek out the temporal pleasures and follow the world's system.

When we further examine the world's system, we will see that there is never a full commitment to anything. The world only strives to honor their commitment as long as it is comfortable and fits their agenda. For

example, marriage vows are exchanged after the pre-nuptial agreement is agreed upon. People are unaware of the true definition of marriage. Marriage is a divine institution created by God whereby two rational, free moral agents, who are born again, choose to enter into covenant relationship with each other and have made an **unconditional, lifetime commitment to God to stay with an imperfect person.** This ideal of marriage is far from the norm, marriage is only upheld as long as both parties are pleased with their partners. There is no longer a desire to uphold the institution that God created. God wants us to fulfill our commitment even if the other person does not.

Another example of this is seen in our Christian walk. We make a commitment to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, but as soon as we face adversity, we turn away from God as if God is the problem. It's very troubling to see how often this happens. Christians should strive to remain in God's will and trust that God will bring us through whatever trial we're facing.

As Christians, we should honor our commitments, especially our commitment to the faith. God has called us to live for Him and to carry out His will. Whether in the valley or on the mountain top, God desires that we keep our commitment to the faith. We should not be swayed by the trials and tribulations that this life presents, but always remember to honor our commitment to God. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (I Corinthians 15:58a)

Upcoming special events for Living Word

- We will be moving into a new location soon! Remain prayerful!
- February 11th 2012
- Evangelism Outreach @ 3:30pm @ St. Francis Nursing Home. (Lansdowne, Pa). See Elder Beverly Williams for details
- February 18th 2012
- LWCOH 5th yr. Church Anniversary (In existence since 2/18/2007) (Church Celebration to be announced)!

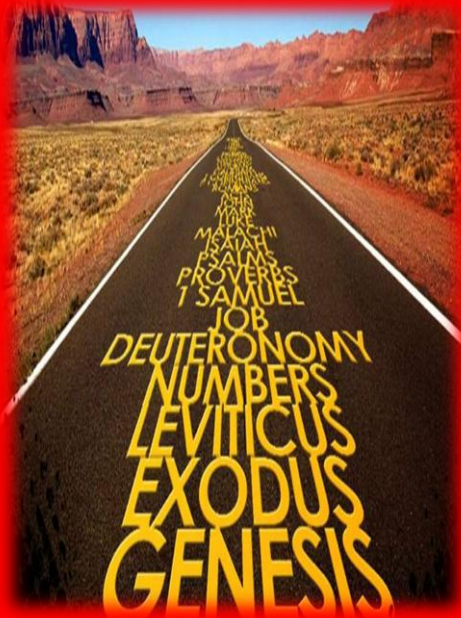


"Marriage is...an unconditional, lifetime commitment to God to stay with an imperfect person."

Walk Thru the Bible: Genesis

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

~ II Timothy 3:16



"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

~ Genesis 1:1

The Bible can be looked at as **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**. The Bible is the Word of God, scripture that gives us instructions on how to live while on earth. II Timothy 3:16-17 confirms this by stating, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The Bible is our guide on how to live and serve God through our lives. That is why it is critical that we read the Word of God, which is the Bible. Over the next few issues of the newsletter, we will walk thru each book of the Bible and give an overview of that book. This is designed to ignite a hunger and thirst for the Word of God.

Genesis – Hebrew: (בְּרֵאשִׁית) Bere'syt, meaning "In [the] beginning"

- The first book of the Old Testament (the first of five books of the Torah or Pentateuch)

- ❖ Portrayal of Jesus: Jesus, Our Creator God
- ❖ 3 Divisions of Genesis:
 - Creation & Fall of Man
 - Anti-Diluvian
 - The Patriarchs
- ❖ The foundational book for the rest of the Bible
- ❖ Writer: Moses (Exodus 24:4, Luke 24:27)
- ❖ Theological themes:
 - The Doctrines of God, creation, man, sin and salvation
- ❖ Key People: The Holy Trinity, Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, 12 sons of Israel including Joseph
- ❖ Key Verse: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27
- ❖ Chapter Overview:
 - **Chapter 1-11:** Creation, the Fall, the first murder, Noah & the flood, the Tower of Babel
 - **Chapter 11-25:** Abraham's obedience, Lot, Sodom and Gomorrah, Ishmael, Isaac's trust, Isaac's marriage
 - **Chapter 25-36:** Jacob marries Rachel, Isaac's twin sons Jacob and Esau, Jacob's ladder, covenant at Bethel
 - **Chapter 37-50:** Joseph's life, the choice of Judah and Tamar, Joseph's family in Egypt





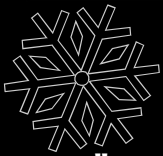
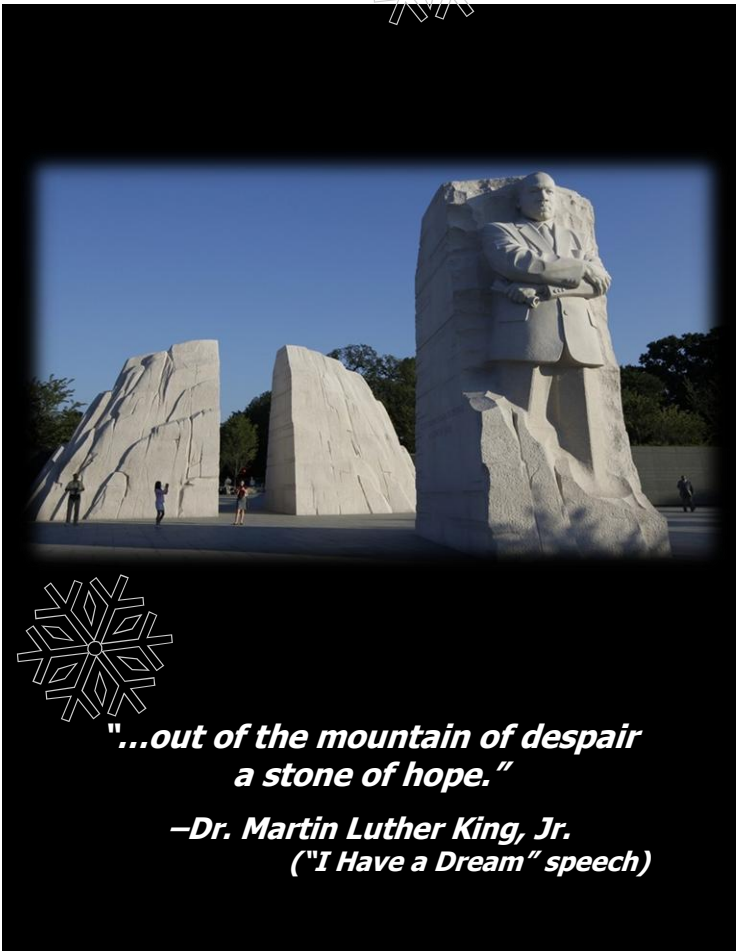
Celebrating Black History Month

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please take some extra time to celebrate **Black History Month**. It is altogether fitting and proper that we honor and respect those individuals who labored, worked and sacrificed. Some even giving their lives for the cause of liberating African Americans from slavery, segregation and America from ignorance and poverty of the spirit. Black History reminds us of the fact that not only do we excel in music and sports but also in science, engineering, medicine, politics and every area of life. In celebrating and honoring **Black History Month**, we are honoring the best in ourselves. Marcus Garvey once said (and later re-quoted by Malcolm X), "A people without knowledge of its history, is like a tree without roots". Our roots are deeply planted on the playing field called life, in the past, present and the future, in American life and the world stage, since time began. Therefore, my challenge to you is **STUDY YOUR ROOTS**.

Peace,

Dr. Walter L. Swinson
The Late Pastor and Founder



**"...out of the mountain of despair
a stone of hope."**

**—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
("I Have a Dream" speech)**



**"The future
belongs
to those
who prepare
for it today."**

—Malcolm X

**"A people without
knowledge of its history, is
like a tree without roots."**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by [James Weldon Johnson](#)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through
the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand, True to our God,
True to our native land.



Mastering the Basics

Many Christians fail to live the lives that God desires us to live because we have yet to "Master the Basics". We find ourselves falling into the same traps and patterns that so easily beset us, but we are to put those things behind us. Hebrews 12 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...."

What are the basics of Christianity?

The Bible basics are things that every believer should know and believe in their hearts. The knowledge of God's word should be memorized and understood in your mind, yet confessed and accepted in your heart. These Bible basics also help to lay a foundation for which we can build upon as we read the Bible, pray and hear from God. For the purpose of this article, there is a list of 12 basics or principles that will be discussed over the next several newsletters that lay the foundation to our Christian walk.

The 12 basics are:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Bible | 7. The Holy Spirit His Person and Work |
| 2. The Living God | 8. Saving Faith |
| 3. Jesus Christ | 9. Living the Christian Life |
| 4. Man, Our True Nature | 10. Heaven and Hell |
| 5. God's work in Salvation | 11. The Church |
| 6. Christ's Death and Resurrection | 12. Baptism and the Lord's supper |

Because God is inexhaustible, the things of God are also inexhaustible. For example, we can never learn all there is to learn about the Bible, but we can begin to learn and practice what we have been made assured of. In our next issue, we will begin to examine these basics on an individual basis.

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Open Heart**

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**"We Do What Is
Right Because It Is
Right."**

Living Word Church of Open Heart's Foundational Scripture:

**"But be ye doers of the word, and not
hearers only, deceiving your own selves."
~ James 1:22**



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