THE SWORD

September 21, 2025

LMCC
LAWRENCE & MARDER
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Psalm 28:7 (KJV)
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship Experience: 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

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Word of Week

Spot [and] Wrinkle: spilos <G4696> [and] rhutis <G4512>

Today we'll ponder three synonyms, each of which is significant for Christian living. **Spot** is spilos <G4696>, which literally refers to a spot or stain and so metaphorically to a moral flaw. The verb form spiloō (<G4695>, to stain or defile) appears in James 3:6 to describe the tongue: "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth [spiloō] the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." What a challenge to be careful what we say!

The noun spilos, then, occurs only twice in the NT, and the meaning in both is figurative. Peter calls ungodly people "spots," that is, moral defects (2 Pet. 2:13). Paul's use is a little more unique, in that he writes that the sanctifying love of the Christian husband for his wife is a love that is *without* spot, that is, any moral stain (Eph. 5:27). That certainly prevents adultery, pornography, and other stains that destroy so many marriages.

In the same verse, Paul adds that such a marriage is also without **wrinkle.** This is rhutis (<G4512>, from an obsolete verb rhuoō, to draw together), which is "indicative of age or disease." The picture this paints is that no matter how many years the couple has been married, the relationship has "no wrinkles," that is, no appearance of age. Yes, we get old and show the ravages of age, but our marriage does not. I've spoken to couples who have been married many years but who continue to say, "We're still on our honeymoon." Praise the Lord for such an attitude.

Not satisfied, Paul also adds the words "or any such thing," which will then give the end result of a marriage that is "without blemish." This is again amōmos (<G299>, see Jan. 18), which Paul uses in 1:4 and means "spotless, free from faultiness." This word occurs in the Septuagint in Leviticus 22:21 to show that a sacrificial animal was to have no spot or blemish.

This is how we are to live—pure in attitude and action, a "living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1). Why did God choose us in Christ before the foundation of the world? Not just so we could go to heaven, but rather so we *could* be and *would* be holy in *position* and *practice.*

Scriptures for Study: Read the following verses, noting the pure life that the Christian is to live (amōmos): Colossians 1:22 ("unblameable"); 1 Thessalonians 3:13 ("unblameable"); Hebrews 9:14 ("without spot"); Jude 24 ("faultless").

Minister's Minutes
Three Faithful Men

"Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." (Daniel 3:28)

THREE Jews stood faithful for God in the fiery-furnace experience. When they came out of the furnace unharmed, King Nebuchadnezzar gave a great commendation for these three men. It involved the honor for God, faith in God, and consecration to God.

Honor for God. "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego." These three men were faithful to God and so refused to bow to the golden image. This resulted in God being given great honor by Nebuchadnezzar. But when David sinned, a prophet said, "By this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme" (2 Samuel 12:14). The aim of our lives ought to be to live in such a way that God will be honored, not shamed. Faithfulness will bring honor to God, but our sin will dishonor Him.

Faith in God. "Delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word." The key to the deliverance and testimony of these three men was their great faith ("trusted in him"). By their faith they did great exploits for God. Nothing is so important in our life as our faith in God. Do all you can to strengthen it. And remember that nothing so strengthens our faith more than the Word of God. Read and study the Word daily and diligently.

Consecration to God. "Yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." These three men would not allow their bodies to bow to the golden image. Consecration involves our bodies. Paul said we are to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Romans 12:1). When you miss church and say you were present in spirit, that will not pass as consecration. True consecration is to have your body at the church service. God wants your body serving Him, not just your spirit..

Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones, and those hospitalized, in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- Attention, church family! To ensure that all announcements and print requests are processed in a timely manner, please submit them by Wednesday at 7:00 PM of the preceding week **to church@landmcoc.org**. We understand that emergencies may arise, and we will do our best to accommodate urgent requests. However, verbal, written, or texted announcements during the Sunday worship experience are strongly discouraged to maintain the flow and reverence of our service. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our worship experience focused and organized!
- Youth Fundraiser: October 5 fish fry. Pre-orders are due by September 28 and will cost $20. Orders after September 28 will be $25.
- If anyone would like to assist with future transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the 100 Year Anniversary please see Felton Davenport, Mac Fulbright, Reginald Osborne or Gary Walker.
- The LandM Homecoming Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2025. To help ensure the success we are asking for the support of all members. Brothers are asked to contribute $100 and sisters $50 by October 5, 2025.
- Sunday Morning Worship experience can be watched on the church website: www.landmcoc.org/broadcast; Church Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. Please "Like" and "Share".
- Children's Worship Hour is for children Pre-K through 4th grade.
- Church Zoom Information for Adults and Youth Wednesday Night Class: **Meeting ID: 915 0578 2664 Password: 859242 Call In Number: 1-346-248-7799**

Continuous Announcements

- Holistic Homeless Haven Support: Please donate gently worn clothing, which will be washed or dry-cleaned, neatly folded, and packaged for the less fortunate. Men's clothing is especially needed. - See Brother Wright for more details.
- Every 2nd Sunday Marsalis Avenue host a Zoom Grief Support Meeting at 4PM (Meeting ID: 880 4065 3591, Passcode: 411521)
- California Avenue Church of Christ in Bakersfield, CA host a Sunday Evening Spiritual Encouragement Hour each week on Zoom at 7:30PM central time (Meeting ID: 875 1387 3553, Passcode: 1020cal#)

What is the Plan of Salvation?

I Peter 1:20 (NASB) says, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you." Before God said let there be light, the plan for mankind's salvation had already been created by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Before God formed man from the dust of the earth, the heavenly trinity had already established a plan for the redemption of mankind. Before God beheld that all He created was "very good" and decided to rest on the seventh day, the Godhead formulated a mystery that would be revealed to reunite mankind with God. We must be thankful to God that His love for us reached back before there was an us. In knowing this, we should follow after the WORD that was made flesh and dwelt amongst us without hesitation. Jesus the Christ is everything that we need (II Peter 1:2–4).

Hear the Gospel of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Romans 10:14). One must hear the glorious message that Jesus the Christ sacrificially died for the penalty of our sin, and that he was raised from the dead by the power of God.

Believe in <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Hebrews 11:6). One must believe that Jesus was more than just a man, but the Christ.

Repent in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Luke 24:46–47). Repentance is required; however, it is not said to take away sin, but rather it produces in us a desire to be vindicated by Jesus the Christ.

Confess that <u>Jesus the Christ</u> is the Son of God (Acts 8:36–37). A person must be willing to make the greatest proclamation ever known to mankind, and that is Jesus the Christ is the Son of God.

Be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Acts 2:38). Baptism is not a sign of salvation, but rather a New Testament requirement for salvation. The action emulates our Lord and Savior's death, burial and resurrection.

Being faithful until death like <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Philippians 2:4–8). If we stay faithful to God's will, God's word and God's way, we will have a home not made with hands awaiting us some day.

What is the Plan of Salvation? How do I become a Christian?
The Answer: <u>JESUS the CHRIST</u>

Sermon Notes for September 21, 2025

Speaker: George Robinson

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

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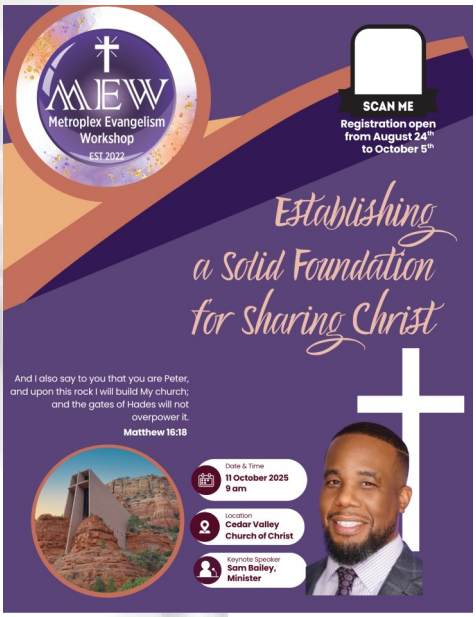
Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org



QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST