THE SWORD

January 19, 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

Love (1): agapē <G26>

One of the most violent attacks on the doctrine of **election** (see Jan. 15) is the accusation that it is cold and hard and ultimately makes a mockery of the **love** of God. "This view," it is charged, "paints God as sitting on His throne spinning the wheel, arbitrarily picking and choosing people as if He were choosing up sides for a ball game."

On the contrary, in Ephesians 1:4, Paul writes that God "hath chosen us in [Christ]... in love," showing us that love is at the very root, the very heart of God's election. Perhaps the best translation of the Greek agape (<G26>) is "a self-emptying self-sacrifice." God does not deal with us only according to His sovereignty and holiness; if He did, we would be hopelessly doomed. He also deals according to love.

That God's election flows from His love is apparent throughout the Scriptures. Why did God choose Israel? "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But *because the Lord loved you"* (Deut. 7:7-8, emphasis added). Why did He love that stiff-necked people (Deut. 31:27; Jer. 17:23)? More importantly, why did He love *me,* who is just as stiff-necked, depraved, rebellious, and self-centered? We don't know.

Christian friend, why did God choose you? Because He loves you. Deuteronomy 10:15 declares, "Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day." That is clearly implied in John 15:19: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." But does not even a simple verse such as 1 John 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us," show us this wonderful truth?

What a blessed truth, indeed! God loved us before the foundation of the world. He loved us according to His gracious purpose, His good pleasure. We'll continue these thoughts tomorrow.

Scriptures for Study: In Romans 5:8, what is the result of God's love? What can separate us from that love, according to Romans 8:38-39?

Minister's Minutes

A Man Without Fear

"And he said, Certainly I will be with thee." Exod. 3:12

Of course, if the Lord sent Moses on an errand, He would not let him go alone. The tremendous risk which it would involve, and the great power it would require, would render it ridiculous for God to send a poor lone Hebrew to confront the mightiest king in all the world, and then leave him to himself. It could not be imagined that a wise God would match poor Moses with Pharaoh and the enormous forces of Egypt. Hence He says, "Certainly I will be with thee," as if it were out of the question that He would send him alone.

In my case, also, the same rule will hold good. If I go upon the Lord's errand, with a simple reliance upon His power, and a single eye to His glory, it is certain that He will be with me. His sending me binds Him to back me up. Is not this enough? What more can I want? If all the angels and archangels were with me, I might fail; but if HE is with me, I must succeed. Only let me take care that I act worthily toward this promise. Let me not go timidly, half-heartedly, carelessly, presumptuously. What manner of person ought he to be who has God with him! In such company it behoveth me to play the man, and like Moses go in unto Pharaoh without fear.

Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- Thank you to all those who attended the Mental health and First Aid Class and helped make it a great success.
- Our 1st Youth for Christ event for 2025 will be Saturday, January 25 from 4PM-6PM at the Cedar Crest congregation. Those desiring to be in the Citywide chorus are asked to arrive at 3PM for practice.
- Southern Hill congregation will be hosting their Ladies Day Symposium on January 25, 2025 from 8:30AM – 12:00PM. RSVP at samartin1516@gmail.com
- Minister Ramón Hodridge will be speaking Wednesday night, January 29, 2025 at 6:45PM, at the Singing Hill Congregation for their Winning Wednesday night of praise.
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the 5-Year Congregational Dinner or the 100 Year Anniversary please see Felton Davenport, Mac Fulbright, Reginald Osborne, George Robinson, Gary Walker.
- 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 2nd 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

- 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 January 19, 2025

Speaker: Bro. Ramón Hodridge

Text: Hebrews 4:12

Title: The Power of God's Word

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST