THE SWORD

March 23, 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

Edify: oikodomē <G3619>

Besides being good, what we say and do should edify. The Greek oikodomē <G3619>, along with its other forms, is a compound word comprised of oikos <G3624>, "house or dwelling," and dōma <G1430>, "to build." The clear idea, then, is that what we do and say should build up others around us and even ourselves. Our speech, for example, should be uplifting, encouraging, instructive, and even challenging.

A graphic example of oikodomē appears in 1 Corinthians 14:26-31, where we read of the chaos in the local church at Corinth. There was no order; everyone had something to say, and they all said it at the same time. They were competing to be in the spotlight and to be the most profound speaker in the church. Paul, therefore, exhorted them, "Let all things be done unto edifying" (v. 26). As on a construction site, if every worker is doing his own thing so no building could be accomplished, likewise if we are doing our own thing and trying to be prominent, the church will not be edified. There are two things involved in such building.

First, the body is built *internally.* This was, in fact, the very point Paul made in his farewell message to the Ephesian elders in Miletus: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up [epoikodomeō, 2026]" (Acts 20:32). Paul gave this challenging counsel because only the Word of God can make the body strong internally. How tragic that many today strive for a big church *externally* before the church is strong *internally.* Internal growth must always come first or the work will eventually collapse of its own weight. Without a good foundation, any building will fall.

Second, the body is built *externally.* We should not overemphasize this lest we fall into the trap of the "numbers game," which is so prevalent today. But neither should we underemphasize this lest we fall into the trap of isolation and eventual stagnation. What, then, is the balance? As pastors give Christians the tools for service (Eph. 4:11-12), others are going to be brought to Christ as a result. Our Lord didn't leave church growth to our devices, such as today's "seeker-sensitive" movement. Rather, He said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Yes, we will plant and water, but He gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7).

Scriptures for Study: What principle of Christian liberty is taught in 1 Corinthians 10:23? In 1 Corinthians 14:4 and 1 Timothy 1:4, what things don't edify?

Minister's Minutes

The Midnight Prayer

Acts 16:25 - *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, & sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

I like the way Paul and Silas handled being in jail The Bible says at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God. You know about midnight don't you? You see midnight is not just the time on the clock. It is that hour when you don't know what move to make next. It is when your family walks away from you. Midnight is when your job lets you go and you're too young to retire and to old to get other employment. That's midnight. Midnight is when the doctor says, "I've done all I could." Midnight is when your best friend turns their back on you.

Paul and Silas didn't complain. They prayed. We're here because we did what you told us to do. We preached and souls were saved. Now Lord we're not asking you to get us out. We just thought we would talk to you anyway. We get great consolation when we talk to you. Sometimes midnight is a good time because Job 35:10 says that God will give songs in the night. Some things in life you've got to pray and sing your way through. I hear them singing; "Let the light from the lighthouse shine on me, do Lord, do Lord do remember me.

Then one of the angels received a message from the Lord. "Gabriel, get me four angels and stand one on each corner of the earth. And when all of you get there I want you to shake the earth." And you see that's what prayer will do. Prayer will shake situations and circumstances. If you've got a son that's gone astray, just start talking to the Lord. Prayer will shake that boy. You've got a daughter that won't listen to reason, just keep on praying. Prayer will shake your home. Prayer will shake your job. Prayer will shake your circumstances. The angels shook the earth. The earth shook the jail. The jail shook the hinges. The shackles fell off. It was the midnight hour and God was there!

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!
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- LMCC Ladies 1st Annual Spring Tea Party is scheduled for April 12, 2025 from 10:30AM - 2PM.
- Lawrence and Marder 5-Year Luncheon will be at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (3520 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, TX) on August 16, 2025 from 3PM-6PM. Cost is $60 per person and must be made no later than August 3, 2025.
- 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 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

- 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 March 23, 2025

Speaker: Bro. Ramón Hodridge

Text: Psalm 100:1-5

Title: The Power of Praise

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST