THE SWORD

March 9, 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

Sin: hamartia <G266>

A second graphic word for **sin** in the NT is hamartia <G266>, from the verb hamartanō <G264>, "to miss the mark." The verb was used in ancient Greek of a spearman missing the target at which he aimed and threw his spear. It then came to be used in the ethical sense of not measuring up to a standard, or falling short of a purpose or standard. The pivotal verse on this principle is Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." What is sin? *Missing the mark.* What then is the mark for which we shoot? *The glory of God.* In other words, the mark we shoot for is to be worthy of glory, *but we miss it every time.*

In his commentary on Romans, William Barclay offers these fitting words: "We commonly have a wrong idea of sin. We would readily agree that the robber, murderer, the razor-slasher, the drunkard, the gangster are sinners, but, since most of us are respectable citizens, in our heart of hearts we think that sin has not very much to do with us. We would probably rather resent being called hell-deserving sinners. But hamartia brings us face to face with what sin is, the failure to be what we ought to be and could be."

Indeed, a common misconception of sin is that it is something we *do,* when actually sin is something we do *not* do. And what is the thing we don't do? We do not measure up to God's standard of holiness. God is holy, perfect, absolutely pure; our sin, then, is not measuring up to that standard. All the "sins" we do are the result of what we *don't* do. How far we fall short of the glory of God!

Man's view of sin is truly distorted, and rightly so; his sinfulness distorts his view of his sinfulness and guilt. But God's view is clear—man has willfully deviated from God's law and has fallen far short of God's standard of holiness.

Once again, we thank God for His **forgiveness** (see **Jan. 25).**

Scriptures for Study: How many times is sin mentioned in Romans 6? Review what it means to be " dead in trespasses and sins" (see Jan. 12). Thankfully, where sin abounds, what else abounds, according to Romans 5:20 (see Feb. 13-14).

Minister's Minutes

A Loser Became A Winner: John 4:10

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knew the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou would have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water

.

The woman had said to Jesus, "How is it that you being a Jew ask me a Samaritan for a drink of water?" Jesus said look your problem is you don't know me or you would ask me for a drink. When I see people backing up on Jesus, I think it is because they don't know him. When people make excuses about serving the Lord or miss prayer service and Bible study, it's because they don't know him. If you know Him, you will rush to serve Him. This woman knew about God. She talked about Jacob, her forefather and the coming Messiah. She knew about the past and the future, death and resurrection, but she did not yet know that the Resurrection was with her that very moment.

So the woman asked Jesus for the kind of water that would not run out. Jesus said, "Go and get your husband." Jesus will always give you an opportunity to confess your sins to him. She said, "I'm sorry sir. I don't have a husband." Then Jesus shocked the woman when He said to her, "You told the truth; that isn't your man. But you have had five husbands." When she realized that she was speaking to the Messiah, she dropped her water pots and headed into town. She said, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" And many of the Samaritans believed on him when they went to hear Him.. This woman had been an outcast and lost. John 3 speaks of Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came at night to speak to Jesus. He was religious and still lost. Regardless of your state in life, you still need Jesus. If Jesus will save a Nicodemus at the utmost, he will also save the outcast at the guttermost. The Lord took that woman and made her a soul winner. Hallelujah!

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.
- SwCC Dinner Day is today at 2:30PM at the Greenville Avenue Church of Christ.
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- 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 March 9, 2025

Speaker: Bro. Ramón Hodridge

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:7

Title: Living by Faith, Not by Sight

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST