THE SWORD

April 20, 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.

2600 Lawrence St.
Dallas, TX 75215
church@landmcoc.org

Word of Week

Good Works: agathois <G18> ergois <G2041>

Having studied in Ephesians 2:8-9 that works do not save, does that mean works have no place whatsoever in the believer's life? Does that mean works are meaningless and irrelevant? Absolutely not, as Paul makes clear in the very next verse: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (v. 10). Good works do not produce salvation, but salvation most certainly produces good works.

Back on March 18, we examined agathos (<G18>, **good**) and learned that it has a wide range of meanings: benevolent, profitable, useful, beneficial, excellent, virtuous, and suitable. We see here, then, the plural agathois. Works is ergois (plural of ergon, <G2041>), which means an act, a deed, the doing of labor, or even employment. The Christian, therefore, is now employed to do things that are good in all the ways implied by agathos. And that is quite a job!

Commentator Walter Liefeld relates this personal testimony that underscores the importance of these verses and this principle:

There are few verses both more important and more misunderstood than 2:8-9. This is partly because verse 10 is often not quoted along with them. When I was a young Christian I acquired a pack of Bible verses to memorize. Among the first were Ephesians 2:8-9. I began quoting them in witnessing, but it took me years to realize that the omission of verse 10 was one reason I was having trouble persuading my morally sensitive friends that salvation is only by grace. The almost inevitable response was that if this is true, Christians can live as they please and still go to heaven. Romans 6:1 deals with this issue as well, but when we quote Ephesians 2:8-9 it should not be necessary to leave the Ephesian context, because verse 10 gives the needed corrective: we are *created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*

Many Christians think that since our salvation was a gift, it, therefore, does not demand anything of us. Jesus is presented today as a "fix-it" for all our problems and someone who doesn't demand anything from us. That is serious error! *Any* gift demands a response even if it is only a simple "thank you." But truly our salvation demands much more than a "thank you" because our salvation is a life-altering reality; it transforms a depraved, hell-bound *sinner* into a blood-bought, heaven-bound *saint.*

Scriptures for Study: What prepares us for doing good works, according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17? What's the challenge of Hebrews 10:24 in relation to good works?

Minister's Minutes

Praise for God

"And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart." (1 Kings 8:23)

THIS verse begins the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the new Temple. Wisely, Solomon begins his prayer with praise for God. If we want a successful prayer life and want to pray wisely, we will begin our prayers with praise for God (which includes thanksgiving to God). We will not get anywhere in our praying if our prayers do not honor God.

This verse on praise for God, speaks about the character of God, the covenant of God, and the condition from God.

Character of God. "There is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath." All the idol gods of that day are put down by this statement. Israel's God is above all. Man has a tendency to exalt himself above all including God. Heathen kings habitually declared themselves divine, and they capitalized on an ignorant citizenry who went along with the claims of divinity. But they were not superior over all. Jehovah God, the God Almighty, is over all. We need to live that truth by submitting to His commands.

Covenant of God. "Who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants." This speaks of the faithfulness of God. He keeps His word. He is not like the nations who break their treaties frequently. You can trust God's Word. It will not fail. Men may fail in their word, but God's Word will never fail.

Condition from God. "Servants that walk before thee with all their heart." It is to the praise of God that He is not satisfied with inferior performances and thus demands "all" your heart as a condition of blessing. He wants total commitment and total loyalty. He wants our best. He withholds many blessings because we do not give our best. We want God to always give His best but seldom do we give God our best. We want God to always respond earnestly to our prayers, but we seldom respond to His precepts earnestly. When things go wrong, men like to blame God's performance; but the problem is always man's performance.

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 26, 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 ($12 for 12 and younger) and must be made no later than August 3, 2025.
- LMCC Ladies Annual Mother's Day Luncheon will be on Sunday, May 4th at 1 pm. This is open to all sisters. It will be at Celebration Restaurant (4503 W Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX). Please let Sis. Samantha Sanders #2 (soon to be McArthur) know by April 30 if you will be attending. You will be responsible for paying for your own meal.
- 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 April 20, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: From the Grave to Glory

Title: Luke 24:1-6

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST