THE SWORD

June 22, 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

Worthy: axios <G514>

Here is another interesting word in the Greek NT. In Classical Greek, axios <G514> carried the idea of balancing scales, of one side of the scale counterbalancing the other side. A dramatic example of that idea appears in John 1:27, where John the Baptist says, "He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." Picturing his unworthiness in comparison to Christ, John says in effect, "I don't even come close to balancing the scales."

On the other hand, in view of man's utter depravity, Paul writes that without Christ we are all "worthy of death," that is, we, like Belshazzar, have been "weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (Dan. 5:27).

In Ephesians 4:1, Paul challenges us to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." In other words, we are **therefore** to **walk** in balance to something. And to what are we to walk in balance? What is the "counterbalance" on the scales? *Our calling as Christians,* that is, the way we are called upon to live. And how are we called upon to live? Another usage of axios answers that question: "Bring forth therefore fruits meet [axios] for repentance" (Matt. 3:8). Like anything that is living, the Christian is called upon to bear fruit (see June 4 for how we do that).

Paul writes another challenge in 1 Thessalonians 2:12: "That [we] would walk worthy of God." What a startling statement! How can we balance the scales when God Himself is the counterbalance? While we certainly can't compare with God in His *nature,* we can "balance the scales" in our *conduct.* That is why Peter could write that we are to "follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). John adds that we are "to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6). And how do we do that? We "walk after his commandments" (2 John 6).

No, we will never have the attributes of God's *nature,* such as omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, sovereignty, and others, but we can "balance the scales" when it comes to the Christlikeness of *character* (Gal. 5:22-23).

Scriptures for Study: Read the following verses, noting what other behavior "balances the scales" in our Christian living: Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 1:10-12.

Minister's Minutes

Personal Preparation

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

One of these days there's going to be a great wedding. The bridegroom is on the way. It doesn't make good sense to know He's coming without being prepared for him to come. Everywhere we look, there are signs that say he's coming back again. Although we've had many false prophets lately who predict the time of his coming, we don't know the date. Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. The Lord said, "What I want you to do is spend some time watching. He says in 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. It will be a time when you least expect him. While we're hanging around fussing, arguing, and complaining, the Lord is on his way.

Notice what he says in 24:50 The Lord of that servant shall come at a day when he looketh not for Him and in that hour that he is not aware of. He could show up any time. We must be continually looking for the coming of the Lord. We must actively prepare for His coming by staying true to the faith, actively working for the Lord, keeping our hearts and minds right, and doing good. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. We must keep the hope fresh that He will come back again. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive, and remain shall be caught up together with them in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. There must be personal preparation.

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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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 June 22, 2025

Speaker: Ramón Hodridge

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST