THE SWORD

July 27, 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

Labor: kopiaō <G2872>

The Greek verb kopiaō <G2872> and the noun kopos <G2873> appear several times in the NT (about twenty-six and twenty respectively), and they underscore a dramatic difference between the **old man** (see Mar. 9) and the **new man** (see Jan. 1). While the old man will **steal** (see Mar. 15) and try to get money using other "shortcuts," the new man desires honest **labor** (Eph. 4:28).

We've all seen the "get-rich-quick" mentality, for example, whether it takes the form of winning the lottery, the latest system for buying real estate, or the newest "pyramid scheme." There's certainly nothing wrong with riches and money in itself, but it's "the *love* of money [that] is the root of all evil" (1 Tim. 6:10, emphasis added). And it is, indeed, that love of money that drives the "get-rich-quick" mentality.

In contrast, the godly Christian doesn't live like that. Kopiaō speaks of "exertion and toil," "the process of becoming tired," and the "consequent fatigue and exhaustion." Peter used this word, for example, when he told the Lord that he and his companions "toiled" all night fishing and had caught nothing (Luke 5:5). Nothing more is known of a certain Mary whom Paul simply greets as one who "bestowed much labour" on Him and other servants of Christ (Rom. 16:6). He praised three others in the Roman church—Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis—for the same reason. All these godly servants tirelessly and sacrificially served the Lord.

Especially important is the duty of a pastor to labor in his study of the Word of God: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17). In contrast to today's tendency to stay out of the "Pastor's Study," Paul makes it clear that the responsibility of a pastor is to exhaust himself in the study of the Word of God.

What is God's promise for faithful labor? We'll be able to say with Paul, "I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain" (Phil. 2:16; cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10).

We'll look at another word tomorrow **(working)** that again emphasizes our labor.

Scriptures for Study: What's the promise of 1 Corinthians 3:8? Read of Paul's "labors" and "weariness" (both kopos) in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 and compare it with your own service. This humbles us all.

Minister's Minutes

Christ the Stone

"I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." (Isaiah 28:16)

THIS verse speaks prophetically about Jesus Christ. He is described as the Stone. In this verse, He is called the foundation stone, the tested stone, the precious stone, the corner stone, and the sure stone.

Foundation Stone. Christ is the foundation of our salvation. In fact, Jesus Christ is the only foundation of our salvation. Paul said, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). You build your salvation upon this foundation or you will not have any salvation.

Tested Stone. Christ was tested ("tried") in His time on earth and passed every test. He was tested severely by Satan shortly after His baptism, and He passed this test with flying colors. When it comes to our soul salvation, we need to put our trust in that which is proven and trustworthy. And none is more proven and trustworthy than Jesus Christ.

Precious Stone: The word "precious" has a double meaning here. First, it means *great value.* When we speak of precious stones, we speak of stones of great value such as a diamond. Christ is the Stone of greatest value, for He can save our soul. Second, it means *great affection.* We call our sweethearts "precious" because we love them. If there is anyone we should love, it is Jesus Christ; for He has saved us from eternal condemnation through His work on Calvary.

Corner Stone. The cornerstone in those days did two important things. First, it *tied two walls together.* This speaks of the mediator work of Christ Who brings the sinner to God. Second, it was the *pattern of the entire building.* The whole building was set up according to the cornerstone. Christ is the pattern we need to follow in life.

Sure Stone. "Sure" means something that will not fail. Christ will never fail. The salvation He provides for us will never fail. It will never let us down. The world makes great promises but fails miserably to fulfill them. But not so Jesus Christ. What He promises He does. You can count on that!

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 July 27, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST