THE SWORD

August 3, 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

Think: logizomai <G3049>

Among his final words to the believers in Philippi, Paul wrote, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (4:8).

What a profound statement! **Think** is logizomai <G3049>, which means "to put together with one's mind, to count, to occupy oneself with reckonings or calculations." While in Classical Greek, especially in the writings of Plato, it spoke of non-emotional thinking that desires to grasp and apply facts, it later added the idea of subjective, emotional, and volitional character. As he often did, however, Paul gives this word group an even deeper significance, namely, it "must be oriented to the facts established by God," with the result that it now "becomes the term for the 'judgment of faith.'" In other words, all our thinking, pondering, and questioning are put into the context of God's standards.

It's now easy to see exactly what Paul was saying to the Philippians and what he's saying to us today. How are we to think? Are we to think in the cold, calculated, detached way of the philosopher? Indeed not. While we certainly use the mind and calculate facts, those things always apply in some subjective way, they affect our will and character, and they are weighed according to the balance of God's standards.

Paul then goes one step farther to specify several specific things that we should think about, weigh, and apply. One commentator calls these "six ethical terms." We have already considered three of those subjects in previous studies.

First, we should think about the things that are "true" **(truth,** see Feb. 1-3), that is, think about things as they really are, not as they are concealed, falsified, or misrepresented.

Second, we are to think about things that are "honest" **(gravity,** see May 24), things that are solemn, dignified, sublime, and majestic.

Third, we are to think about things that are **pure** (see May 12), things that are morally, and even doctrinally, holy and chaste.

In the next few days, we'll examine the other subjects Paul lists here. As Proverbs 23:7 declares: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Someone once said, "You might not be what you think you are, but what you think, you are."

Scriptures for Study: What great conclusion does Paul come to in Romans 3:28 ("conclude" is logizomai)? What does he also conclude in Philippians 3:13 ("count" is logizomai)?

Minister's Minutes

Man's Ruin and God's Rescue

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

HERE is another Gospel lesson in the middle of the Old Testament. The Gospel can be found in the entire Bible. In this verse about the Gospel, is the practice, the peril, and the pardon of man.

Practice of man. "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way . . . iniquity" The practice of mankind spoken of in our verse is a selfish practice, for it says man went "his own way." It is a popular practice, for "all" are doing it. It is also an unholy practice, for it is the practice of "iniquity." Being popular does not make it right.

Peril of man. This sinful practice of man has put him in great peril. He is in peril because his way is the wrong way. "Astray" is not the language of the right way. This is not the way to heaven. He is in peril because his way is a deadly way. The "iniquitous" way predicts death, for "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Also he is in peril because his way is a condemned way. This verse is not commending man but condemning him which thus puts man in peril. Man may call sin nice names, but that does not change the peril of sin. Changing the names on a bottle does not change the contents of the bottle; and if the bottle holds poison, the poison is just as perilous with a nice name as it was with a more truthful name. The Word of God gives sin the right names.

Pardon of man. "The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." This pardon is a Divine pardon. God provided the way of salvation. It was not man's idea. This pardon is a merciful pardon, for man does not deserve the pardon. Man has gone his own way and rejected God's way, yet God in mercy provided for his rescue. This pardon is a vicarious pardon. Pardon comes through "him." Salvation is in Jesus Christ Who died on Calvary for our sins. Our sins were laid upon "him," as He died as our substitute. This pardon is a sufficient pardon. "All" at the end of the verse says salvation is possible for anyone who comes to Christ.

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 August 3, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: Matthew 25:40

Title: Serving the Savior in the Shadows

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST