Sermon Notes for October 5, 2025

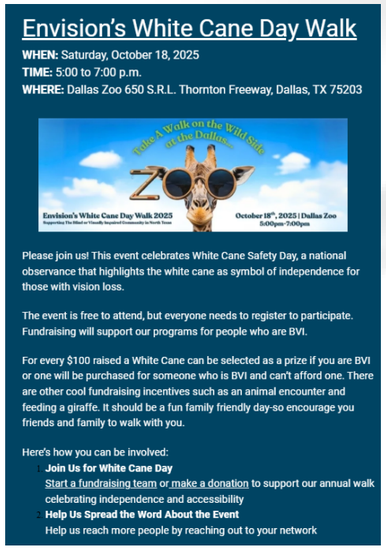
Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

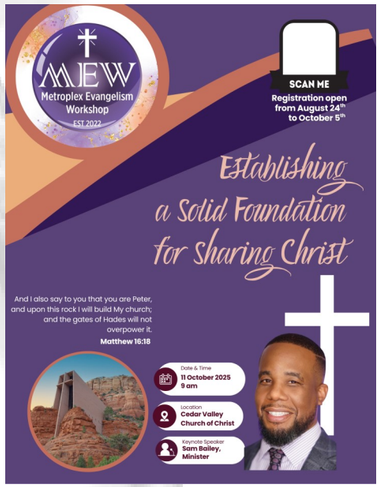
Text: Romans 12:2

Title: I Know His Will

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org





QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST

THE SWORD

October 5, 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

Soldier: stratiōtēs <G4757>

Since we are to "put on the armor of God" so we can fight the spiritual war, that obviously makes each of us a **soldier**. Stratiōtēs <G4757> comes from stratos (not in NT), which originally literally meant "to spread," and so came to mean "to spread out camp" and finally referred to an army. This is where we get our English word *strategy,* the overall plan of a battle, from the idea of "how the battle will spread out."

While stratiōtēs refers, of course, to a literal soldier (e.g., Matt. 28:12; Mark 15:16; etc.), Paul called Pastor Timothy a soldier: "Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3; 1 Tim. 1:18). While pastors must be what we could call "Special Forces," who are given more difficult and specialized missions than other soldiers, *all* Christians are soldiers. What, then, must soldiers do?

First, a soldier must endure difficult training. As Paul says, a soldier must "endure hardness." This is a single word in the Greek, kakopatheō <G2553>, from kakos <G2556>, "evil," and pathos <G3806>, "passion," hence "to suffer evil and affliction." Being a student of military history, I've read books about Navy SEALs (SEa, Air, and Land) and have been positively amazed at the requirements and training they endure. Trainees learn quickly that, "The only easy day was yesterday," and three-fourths of those who start don't finish. Being a Christian soldier is not easy. It demands difficult preparation through study and prayer.

Second, a soldier must take orders. The soldier who does not submit to authority and the "chain of command" will not last long in the military. The Christian soldier must likewise submit to the leadership of a pastor (who is equally in submission to Christ and His Word). Pastors, in fact, will give an account for their leadership (Heb. 13:17; cf. v. 7). Sadly, some Christians think they can "be their own boss" in Christian living, but God has created His chain of command in the church.

Third, a soldier must kill the enemy. War is not about negotiation, diplomacy, or politics. It's about killing the enemy and destroying his fortifications. Likewise, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Cor. 10:3-4). So, the Christian soldier must be skillful in using the weapons (armor) God has provided for the war.

Scriptures for Study: Read 2 Timothy 2. Can you identify all seven metaphors that Paul uses to illustrate the Christian life?

Minister's Minutes

Salt

"Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matthew 5:13)

SALT has always been a thing of great value. In our time with salt being abundant and of low cost in the stores, we sometimes forget its great value to life. But the old timers valued it greatly. Homer called it "divine," and Plato called it a "substance dear to the gods." In our verse Christ compares His followers to salt. The lesson involves the worth of salt and a warning for salt.

Work of salt. "Ye are the salt of the world." Salt does at least three very important things. First, it *purifies.* Nothing illustrates this work more than the saline content of the ocean. Scientists tell us that if the ocean water was not salty the great bodies of water would be vast areas of corruption and the earth would be swept clean of life from the resulting epidemics. God's people are to be a purifying effect like salt. God's people are to lift the moral standard. Second, it *preserves.* Until recent refrigeration advances in our age, salt was the chief ingredient for preserving foods. God's people are also a preservative. When Abraham prayed for Sodom, God promised to preserve Sodom if ten righteous people were in it. The preservation of our nation depends upon the presence of God's people. Third, it *flavors.* Food without salt is flat, tasteless. God's people are to add good flavor to society. Be cheerful not cantankerous, pleasant and not sour, helpful and not selfish, loving not spiteful. God's people should improve the desirability of any group they are in.

Warning for salt. "If the salt have lost his savour . . . it is thenceforth good for nothing." The words "lost his savour" is translated from the same word that is translated "became fools" in Romans 1:22. If God's people do not live godly—which means they are living foolishly—they will be of no value to society. They will not purify, preserve or add flavor. Let every child of God pray to be faithful in holy living that he might always have a holy and blessed influence upon society.

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!
- Youth Fundraiser: October 5 fish fry. Orders are $25.
- If anyone would like to assist with future transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the 100 Year Anniversary please see Felton Davenport, Mac Fulbright, Reginald Osborne or Gary Walker.
- The LandM Homecoming Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2025. To help ensure the success we are asking for the support of all members. Brothers are asked to contribute $100 and sisters $50 by October 5, 2025.
- 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 Jesus the Christ (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 Jesus the Christ (Hebrews 11:6). One must believe that Jesus was more than just a man, but the Christ.

Repent in the name of Jesus the Christ (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 Jesus the Christ 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 Jesus the Christ (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 Jesus the Christ (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: JESUS the CHRIST