THE SWORD

September 28, 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

Wrestle: palē <G3823>

The apostle Paul gives us one of the gravest warnings in all of Scripture when he writes, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

Wrestle is palē <G3823>, which occurs only here in the NT. One Greek authority tells us that this refers to "a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able [to] hold [his opponent down] with his hand upon his neck." Paul writes something very similar to Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12). Timothy immediately understood that Paul was saying that spiritual warfare is savage. History tells us why.

Both ancient boxing and wrestling were horrendously brutal. In boxing matches, the "Greeks fought almost to the death with gloves reinforced at the knuckles with an iron band three quarters of an inch thick." The head was the only target, and "there was no rule against hitting a man who was down." There were no rest periods or rounds. The fight continued until one surrendered or was incapacitated. As the brutality increased in Greek times, wrestling and boxing were combined into a new contest, the pankration—from pas <G3956>, "all," and kratos (2904; April 12), "power," so literally, "game of all powers." Anything except eye gouging and biting was permitted, even kicking in the stomach. Some famous competitors won by breaking the opponent's fingers. One was noted for striking so viciously "with straightened fingers and strong sharp nails that he pierced the flesh of his adversary and dragged out his bowels."

That's why Paul says we are at war! As graphic and barbaric as the ancient *pankration* was, he says that we "wrestle" against an even greater spiritual foe. Are we getting the picture? Paul mentions this again in his last letter, saying of himself, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Timothy immediately understood Paul's meaning. This fight is, indeed, "for keeps." It's not a "police action," a minor skirmish, a border dispute, or any such thing. It's an all-out war to the death. The devil has declared war on us, and we must do the same to him.

Scriptures for Study: Read the following verses, noting the struggles and victory that come in the Christian life: 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Colossians 1:29; 2 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:1-4.

Minister's Minutes
Jonah's Call

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me."
Jonah 1:2

HERE is Jonah's commission and call to duty. Our verse tells of the waking, walk, ward, and warfare of his duty.

Waking. "Arise." This is a rousing call to action. It said to Jonah, "Get going." This "arise" is too strong for most church members, however. They want to sit and do nothing. Try enlisting them to service in the church and they are full of excuses. Furthermore, they will vote against any program in church that is moving forward the work of the Gospel.

Walk. "Go to Nineveh." This meant a walk of five to six hundred miles for Jonah. Fulfilling our calling will not be easy, but it will require much effort just to get to the place of service. You may have to spend months of laborious study and training for your task. It will require much dedication and discipline to adequately prepare for your calling. But every duty in life has its walking part.

Ward. "Go to Nineveh, that great city." Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the nation which eventually took the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity. Thus there was no prestige in going to Nineveh even though it was a great city, for Nineveh was a hostile city to God's people. Jonah was called to go to a place which was very wicked. No one likes to serve in a difficult place. Folk want to serve where they will be accepted and treated with high respect. But if you are going to do the will of God, you can expect assignments which will take you into hostile areas that will require much courage to minister and fulfill your duty.

Warfare. "Cry against it, for their wickedness is come up before me." Jonah was to preach against sin. This is definitely not a popular message to preach. However, Nineveh needed the message for they were very wicked. Our society also needs this message, for it is a very wicked society. But few are the preachers who have the spiritual boldness and integrity to preach against sin. This failure has only encouraged the increase of sin in our land. However, a pulpit that will not denounce sin will bring no revival to the land.

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. Pre-orders are due by September 28 and will cost $20. Orders after September 28 will be $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

- 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 September 28, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

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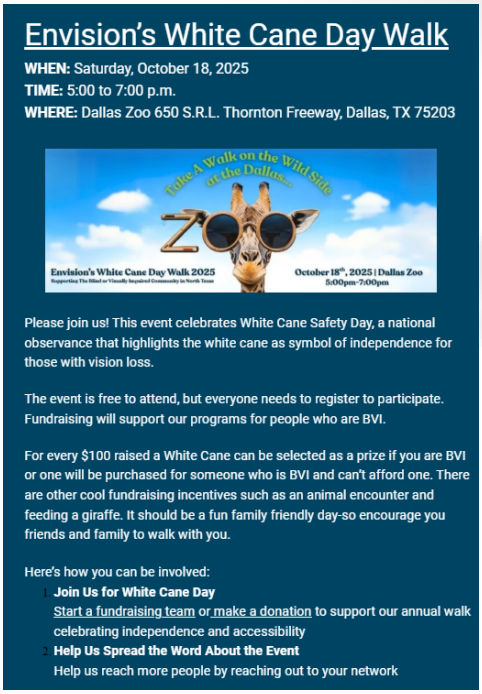
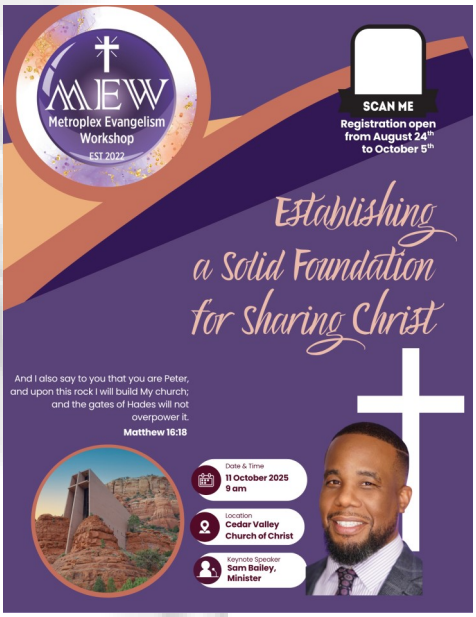
Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org





QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST