# THE SWORD

February 23, 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

Knowledge (2): epignōsis <G1922>

Yesterday we pondered the word gnosis, which means "experiential knowledge." In Ephesians 1:17, however—"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him"—Paul uses an intensified form of this word, epignōsis <G1922>. By adding the prefix epi (<G1909>, "motion upon or toward"), the word takes on the meaning of "an experiential, personal knowledge that is full and thorough." It also speaks of "precise and correct knowledge." How vital it is that we have full, precise, thorough, and correct knowledge of God.

A driving force in my own life and ministry is a passion for precision. I loathe the ambiguity and relativism that rule our day. Paul speaks here of precise doctrine, exact knowledge, not something vague and relative to each person's experience. The modern philosophies of "open-mindedness" and "tolerance" were foreign to Paul's thinking and they should be expunged from the thinking of Christians today. Many today have "a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (epignōsis, Rom. 10:2).

No, we shall never know everything, but our knowledge is full in the sense that we know what is right and necessary for Christian living. And, of course, our knowledge continues to grow with more involvement with God's Word. In other words, our knowledge can be full from moment to moment; we can right now know what God wants us to know, but tomorrow we will know more; so, each moment we are living in the full potential of our present knowledge.

That should be the prayer of every pastor for his flock, as it was Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers: "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:9-10).

***Scriptures for Study:*** In 2 Timothy 3:7, what is the sad condition of the unsaved person? In 2 Peter 1:3, what comes to us through the knowledge of Christ?

# Minister's Minutes

Persisting Problems

John 16:33

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Most of us are familiar with problems. You hear us saying if it's not one thing it's another. Problems seem to become attached to most of us in one way or the other. If it's not problems with the family then it's problems with the finances. If it's not problems with the finances, it's problems with our future. And if it's not a problem with our future, we have problems with our feelings. There are always some problems somewhere. I have discovered in life that the problems become smaller or larger depending on my attitude with the problem. It is amazing that some can have problems and walk straight through the difficulty. You never know they have one. They keep a smile on their faces. They never stop coming to church. They keep looking fat and fine.

There are others however, who give in to the problems. They resort to drinking, drugs, overeating, gambling, illicit sex and many other wrong pastimes to try to drown out the problems. Job 14:1 says a man's days are full of trouble. You cannot run from problems. You don't have to be a bad person to encounter problems. You don't have to be going in the wrong direction to have problems. Sometimes problems are heaven sent, for many of us would not have a personal relationship with the Lord if we had not experienced uncertainty. Problems often help us to have a closer walk with our heavenly Father. We stop taking life for granted. If you are honest with yourself today you will rightly say, "Because of problems I'm closer to the Lord." But a good attitude will diminish the problem and help solutions to be more obvious. It will be easier to focus on finding answers. Be of good cheer. Let your heart be happy. Your attitude can make all the difference.

# Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- 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 2nd 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**

# Sermon Notes for February 23, 2025

**Speaker:** Bro. Ramón Hodridge

**Text:** James 1:2-4

**Title:** Faith through Trials

**Notes:**

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

**QR CODES**

**VISITOR CHECK-IN**

**MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN**

**RESPONSE CARD REQUEST**