THE SWORD

June 29, 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

Cornerstone: akrogoniaios <G204>

In Ephesians 2:20 Paul likens the church to a building. While in modern construction we think of the foundation as the most important part of a building, Paul pictures the ancient construction technique of a **cornerstone.** While the **apostle** (see June 27) and **prophet** (see June 28) were the foundation of the church, the Lord Jesus is the Cornerstone.

Akrogoniaios <G204> is a compound made of akron <G206>, "top" or "tip," and gōnia <G1137>, "an angle or corner." The literal idea then is, as one commentator puts it, "at the tip of the angle" and refers to "the stone set at the corner of a wall so that its outer angle becomes important." It was this stone that became the basis for every measurement in the building. It governed every line and angle. It provided no more support to the structure than any other stone; rather, its entire value lay in its outer angle.

This is actually rooted in OT imagery. The term *cornerstone* had for centuries been a prophetic metaphor for the coming Messiah. Isaiah, for example, declared, "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isa. 28:16).

Perhaps even more significant is Psalm 118:22: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." The entire psalm, in fact, is totally messianic and is actually the most quoted psalm in the NT. Verse 22 declares that the stone the Jews would reject would be the very stone that God would use to build all His work.

That is the picture Paul paints of Christ. In all respects He was the perfect cornerstone—strong, perfect in character, and exact in measurement. We, therefore, are to conform to Him in every detail for we, too, are part of the building. What if we do not conform to the Cornerstone? What if we do not measure ourselves by that standard? What if our placement is not according to that absolute? Just think of how noticeable peeling paint is on a house or how an improperly laid brick or stone sticks out. *Any such flaw either weakens, or at the very least, disfigures the building.* Likewise, we are to conform to Christ lest we weaken or disfigure the building.

We'll continue examining Paul's metaphor over the next few days.

Scriptures for Study: Compare the following verses with their source in Psalm 118: Matthew 21:9, 42; 23:39; Mark 11:9, 10; 12:10, 11; Luke 13:35; 19:38; 20:17; John 12:13; Acts 4:11; Hebrews 13:6; 1 Peter 2:7.

Minister's Minutes

A Good Conclusion

"But it is good for me to draw near to God, I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works." (Psalm 73:28)

The perplexity of the wicked prospering burdened the Psalmist in Psalm 73. But at the end of the Psalm he made a good conclusion. He concluded that righteousness was still the best way of life regardless of how the wicked prospered. In our verse at the end of this Psalm is association, salvation, and declaration in this good conclusion.

Association. "But it is good for me to draw near to God." Note the "But" to start this sentence. It tells us that regardless of the prosperity of the wicked, it is still good to be near God. It is evident that the world does not buy this first sentence of our verse. To hear some talk, such as the ACLU, you would think it was perilous to draw near to God. But our verse is right; it is indeed good to draw near to God. How do we draw near to God? We draw near Him through the study of the Word, through prayer, and through worship. Stay away from these three things and you will not have much fellowship or association with God.

Salvation. "I have put my trust in the Lord." The word "trust" means to flee to a place of refuge, shelter, and protection. The Psalmist says he finds safety in God; or as we would say in New Testament terminology, Christ is the way of salvation. Note that this pursuit of salvation is *personal.* It is "I" have put "my" trust in the Lord. Others cannot get saved for you. You must come to Christ yourself. And note the pursuit for salvation was *prompt* for it is "have," not "will." Never leave salvation to "will," for you may never get there. Take care of salvation now. Make the decision past tense.

Declaration. "That I may declare all thy works." When you associate with God and find salvation in Him, you will witness for God; you will testify for God. But you will not do much declaring of God's wondrous works if you do not associate with God and if you have not come to Christ for salvation. It is the redeemed who have a testimony, not the unsaved. It is those who know God who can declare His works.

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 June 29, 2025

Speaker: Vince Ford

Text: Galatians 5:22-26

Title: Fruit Bearing Boundries

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST