THE SWORD

July 20, 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

Prove: dokimazō <G1381>

Paul uses one other word to underscore the importance of discernment. He wrote to the Thessalonians, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Prove is dokimazō <G1381>, which means "test, pronounce good, establish by trial." A related word, dokimos <G1384>, was originally used as a technical term for coins that were genuine. So, Paul is saying, "Examine everything, put everything to the test, verify each item to see if it's genuine or if it's a fake. If it's good, seize it and hold on to it. If not, however, withdraw from it."

As that great expositor John Gill wrote some 100 years before Spurgeon in London: "Abstain from all appearance of evil, of doctrinal evil. Not only open error and heresy are to be avoided, but what has any show of it, or looks like it, or carries in it a suspicion of it, or may be an occasion thereof, or lead unto it; wherefore all new words and phrases of this kind should be shunned, and the form of sound words held fast."

The apostle John echoes Paul's mandate to discernment by also using dokimazō in 1 John 4:1, where it's translated "try": "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." How much clearer could Scripture be? *Don't believe every spirit.* There are several teachers today we could list who can say anything and people will believe it. They are, in fact, seldom, if ever, questioned. Likewise, there are countless claims to spiritual authority today, innumerable assertions that "this is what the Bible says," but every single one is to be examined, tested, and verified.

As I've shared many times with the sheep I shepherd that shepherds, too, must be tested and verified. This is why all pastors should stick with the *Scripture alone,* expositing only the Word of God. We should not seek for new and novel things, or search for new terms or new philosophies. If we stick with the Scripture alone, that leaves little room for error.

Scriptures for Study: Note the significance of the following occurrences of dokimazō: Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 3:13 ("try"); Galatians 6:4; Philippians 1:10 ("approve"); 1 Timothy 3:10.

Minister's Minutes

Gospel Invitation

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though you sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

HERE in the midst of the Old Testament is a beautiful Gospel invitation. In this verse of Gospel invitation is the call of the Gospel, the character of the Gospel, the condemnation by the Gospel, and the cleansing in the Gospel.

Call of the Gospel. "Come now." This is both a gracious call and an urgent call. It is a *gracious* call because God could have said "get" instead of "come" and He would have been justified in so doing because of our sin. It is *urgent* call because God said, "Now." Do not put off receiving the Gospel. Delay can spell eternal doom for the soul. "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Character of the Gospel. "Let us reason." The word translated "reason" means to prove something, "to demonstrate what is right and true" (Wilson). The Gospel wants to be investigated to check its validity, to prove its high character. Many people scorn the Gospel and call it stupid and other like derogatory names. But if you will investigate and examine the Gospel, you will discover it is of noble character. It is most logical and sensible. It is just and wise.

Condemnation by the Gospel. "Together." This word reminds us that sin separates man from God. "Together" rebukes mankind for straying away from God. God has not left us; we have left Him and need to get back to God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God. Sins drives us from God, but the Gospel brings us back to God.

Cleansing in the Gospel. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Scarlet speaks of the vilest of sins. As as example, we call the sin of adultery the scarlet sin. But the good news in the Gospel is that sinners can be cleansed of even the vilest sins. Man needs to be cleansed of all his sins if he is to gain heaven. Our verse says even the worst of sins can be cleansed away. And it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses away our sins (1 John 1:7).

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 July 20, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST