THE SWORD

August 10, 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

Good Report - euphēmos <G2163>

The sixth and final subject on which we should **think** is that which is of **good report** (Phil. 4:8). Euphēmos <G2163> is another interesting word that appears only in this NT instance. Like prosphilēs **(lovely),** we find here another compound, consisting of eu <G2095>, "good, well," and phēmē <G5345>, "rumor, fame."

While ancient superstitious pagans used euphēmos in the sense of thinking or saying only words that would be good omens, the essential idea of positive words is true. The word has, therefore, been translated in many ways by commentators and translators: *of good repute, admirable, honorable, high-toned, auspicious,* and others. Whichever word one chooses, this word suggests at least three applications.

First, we should think and talk about things that are *worth* thinking and talking about, things that are appealing. We've all sat around a dinner table, for example, when conversation that started out good slowly turned frivolous, foolish, or even inane. While there's certainly nothing wrong with talking about the weather or perhaps our favorite novelist's newest thriller, our thoughts and speech should major on high and noble things.

Second, we should think and talk about things that are likely to win others and not offend them. This brings us to our English word *euphemism,* which comes directly from euphēmos. A euphemism, in fact, as Webster tells us, is "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant." We often say, for example, that someone "passed away" instead of "died." Perhaps the most infamous euphemism of all was Hitler's "The Final Solution," which actually meant the extermination of all European Jews and other "inferior races." So, while we certainly don't refer here to the absurdities of certain "politically correct" phrases, our desire should always be to guard against offending.

Third, we should think and talk about things that are positive and constructive rather than negative and destructive. One way we can think destructively is by dwelling on past sin and thereby being defeated by that memory. Yes, sin should grieve us, and our desire is victory over it, but it should not depress us and rob us of joy. Such thoughts are not of "good report."

While this brings us to the end of the six ethical things that should comprise the topics of our thinking, Paul adds two other profound words, which we'll examine next.

Scriptures for Study: Read the following verses, noting things that are simply foolish and not worth thinking and talking about: 1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 6:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:23; Titus 3:9.

Minister's Minutes

Purpose For The Pressure -2 Corinthians 12:7

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

A messenger of Satan was given to Paul to buffet him. The word buffet means to hit with the fist. It means taking abusive treatment. He said, "Look, I really had a war in my private life. And I had a war for several reasons. First, I was under pressure." Pressure can create catastrophes. Lots of folk are over weight because they're under pressure. Some of you say that you smoke because of pressure. You can't sleep because of pressure. Paul had pressure.

In spite of the pressure, God had a purpose for the thorn. He wanted to keep Paul's feet on the ground. God knows all of his children. As a matter of fact, God knows us better than we know us. Most of us think we can handle being rich. You say, "If I can't handle it, I'd love to try." But God knows if we get a little too much too soon, our feet would leave the ground. And God would rather have us talk to him on a daily basis than to just hear from us at the end of the year.

I have been preaching for twenty-seven years. I have been studying the Bible for the last thirty-five years and I try to spend forty hours in preparing each sermon. I don't want to come on Sunday and you leave empty, because I've been in places where I've heard messages that meant nothing. If I could work forty hours a week on a job for myself, I can spend that much time studying the word for God's people. And even at that when I come to the pulpit, the Lord will do something over and over again to keep my feet on the ground. More than once I have studied forty hours for a sermon just to have the Lord take it as I walked to the pulpit. He said, "You will have to rely on me."

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!
- Our Food Distribution will take place this Wednesday, August 13, 2025. 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.
- 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 August 10, 2025

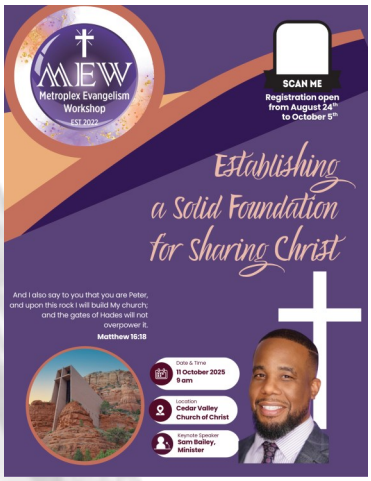
Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: Luke 15:20-22

Title: A Father's Reach: The Embrace that Retores

Notes:

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org



QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST