# THE SWORD

August 31, 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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Dallas, TX 75215
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# Word of Week

He Led Captivity Captive: ēchmalōteusen <G162> aichmalōsian <G161>

Many a Bible student has justifiably wondered what that odd phrase **"he led captivity captive"** (Eph. 4:8) means. A common teaching views **captivity** as referring to OT saints who, though saved, were held in some sort of captivity. Supposedly, then, Jesus went into hades (hell), retrieved them from their captivity, and took them to heaven. Such a teaching, however, is actually rooted in Roman Catholic *tradition,* not Scripture, and doesn't even come close to the imagery of the phrase.

The Greek (ēchmalōteusen aichmalōsian) more literally says, "He led captive captivity." ēchmalōteusen is the aorist indicative active of aichmalōteuō <G162>, "to capture," and aichmalōsian <G161>, "the state of being captive," is a noun from aichmalōtos <G164>, a captive. The picture is rooted in the public triumphs of conquerors, especially as celebrated by the Romans. The language clearly describes the conqueror who took captives, led them away in chains, and then made them part of his triumphal procession.

We find the same expression in the OT. In Judges 5:12, Deborah praises the Lord for giving victory over Canaan: "Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive." The idea is clear: You will now lead captive him who held you captive. Also, in Amos 1:3-6, God pronounces judgment on the nations around Israel because they had "carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom," that is, the Philistines had handed over a large number of Israelites to the cruel Edomites.

So, what is Paul saying? As one expositor puts it, "It is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ leading in His triumphal train the devil and hell and sin and death—the great enemies that were against man and which had held mankind in captivity for so long a time. The princes which had controlled that captivity are now being led captive themselves."

What a picture! Our Lord is, indeed, the Conqueror of conquerors, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. Those who once held us in bondage are now captives of the Great Conqueror and march in chains before Him. As if that were not enough, Paul goes on to say (as we'll see tomorrow) that Christ gave **spiritual gifts** (see Feb. 15) to the believers who remain on earth.

***Scriptures for Study:*** Ephesians 4:8 is actually a "semi-quotation" of Psalm 68:18. The scene is a victory hymn celebrating God's conquest of the Jebusites and His ascent (represented by the Ark of the Covenant) up Mount Zion (2 Sam. 6-7; 1 Chron. 13). Soldiers captured by the enemy became "recaptured captives," and the spoils of war became the property of the conqueror to give as he wished.

# Minister's Minutes

**Comforting Thoughts**

*"They shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings, and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 14:23)*

WHILE much of the message of Ezekiel has thus far been about judgment, here is an an encouraging verse that is one of great comfort. It speaks of comfort from conduct and comfort from cause.

***Comfort from conduct.*** "They shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings." Great judgment came upon Jerusalem. But those who survived the judgment and came to Babylon in the captivity were quite changed in their conduct. That is, they behaved better. There was a welcomed improvement in their conduct. This change of conduct would be a great comfort to Ezekiel. It would be a great comfort and encouragement to any true saint of God. It is always comforting and encouraging to see change in conduct for the better. Sinful behavior does not bring comfort to the godly. It upsets and grieves the heart of holiness. But when you see a change to holy conduct, what delight, what joy that brings to the eyes of the true people of God.

***Comfort from cause.*** "Ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD." Here God reminds Ezekiel that God did not bring great judgment upon Jerusalem without important reasons. When great troubles come, it is hard to see the reason for it all. We are inclined rather to complain to God and ask "Why?" in a critical manner. But God is not a capricious God Who acts without good reasons. Rather God is a God of infinite wisdom and does everything with the best of reason and purpose. He brought great judgment upon Jerusalem not to destroy His people but to correct and purify His people. Sometimes God takes even His dedicated saints through some very deep waters which look like they will destroy. But they are not to destroy but to build up and to increase blessing. God does everything for a very good reason. We may not learn that reason until we get to heaven, but we can be comforted now in the knowledge that He does all for a good cause.

# 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 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 August 31, 2025

**Speaker:** Felton Davenport

**Text:** _____

**Title:** _____

**Notes:** _____

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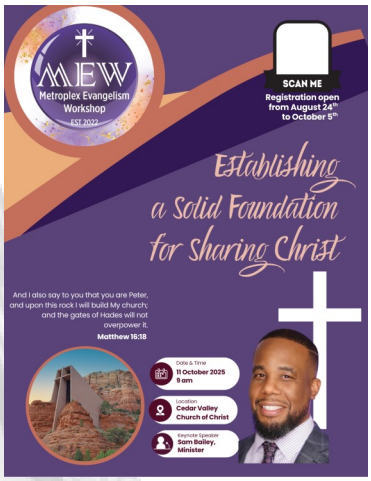
## Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org




## QR CODES

**VISITOR CHECK-IN**

**MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN**

**RESPONSE CARD REQUEST**