THE LYTLE LIGHT

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

- Matthew 5:14a (NKJV)

Number 32

Believers are appointed to be a lighthouse to others; a cheering lamp, a shining star, a loving guide.

bulletin of the CHURCH of CHRIST in lytle, texas

Volume MMXXIV

E CHURCH OF

AUGUST 4, 2024

Sunday Schedule: 9:45AM - Bible Study | 10:45AM - Worship | 12:00PM - Fellowship Meal (4th or 5th Sundays)

Wednesday Schedule: 5:00PM—Bible Study

physical address — 15340 Main Street, Lytle, TX 78058 (do NOT use for mailing)

mailing address — PO Box 668, Lytle, TX 78058

phone ==> 726-241-5234 <== NEW NUMBER AS OF 3/22/2024

email — lytlechurchofchrist@yahoo.com

website — lytlechurchofchrist.org

facebook — facebook.com/Lytle-Church-Of-Christ-101136328215158

co-ministers — Tom Woodard (210-562-0136) & Mitch Watkins (210-213-8392)

If you're searching for faith rather than simply religion; virtue rather than simply values; relationship rather than rule-keeping; divine help rather than self-help; then we may be the place for you.

REFLECTIONS ON ROMANS 15:30

"I beg you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord, Jesus the Messiah, and through the love of the Spirit, to strive hard with me in your prayers to God on my behalf..." (Romans 15:30)

There is a song in our song book entitled "There is a Balm in Gilead" (734). A line from that hymn has stuck with me through the years and I have sometimes thought about it. It came to mind this week as I prepared this week's sermon. The line from the song is "If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul." If you've sung this song in the past have you ever wondered why Paul was singled out from his prayer-life? Having read most if not all of Paul's writings, I think I understand why he was chosen. Paul had a most remarkable theology of prayer – the kind of theology that can only emerge from experience, from the determined and ceaseless practice of prayer.

This is not only evident in the obvious places, the places where Paul writes down his prayers at the beginning of his letters, or the places where Paul is explicitly teaching on prayer. It is also evident in the unexpected places, the places where Paul's extensive understanding, his profundity, catches us off guard and by surprise, such as in his laundry lists of pedestrian commands and instructions at the close of his letters.

[continued on page 3]

WELCOME VISITOR!

We Welcome Each & Every One Of You To Our Worship Services today! We Hope You Will Stay After Services So We May Become Better Acquainted! And Be Sure To Join Us For Our Monthly Fellowship Meal After Worship Services On The 4th or 5th Sunday Of Every Month!

Be Sure To Pick Up A Visitor Pamphlet From The Table Under The Mirror In The Front Hall.

And Please Fill Out A Visitor Card (We PROMISE Not To Sell Your Information!) From The Back Of The Pew In Front Of You And Place It In The Collection Plate Located On The Table In The Back Of The Auditorium.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Let Every Heart Rejoice & Sing To The Lord Always Because There Is Sunshine In Our Souls As We Live In The Heart Of Jesus!

- ENTER TO WORSHIP •
- ANNOUNCEMENTS •
- SCRIPTURE READING
 - OPENING PRAYER •

Song Nos. 703-Rejoice In The Lord Always Song No. 10 Let Every Heart Rejoice And Sing Song No. 384-Sing On, Ye Joyful Pilgrims

• MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER • Song No. 141-Into The Heart Of Jesus Song No. 299-There Is Sunshine In My Soul Not In Song Book-Come Share The Lord



• SERMON — SEE RIGHT COLUMN •

Invitation Song No.304–Jesus Is All The World...

• FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 702–Jesus Loves Me

• Prayer: Offering & Closing •

GO IN PEACE, DEPARTING TO SERVE IN LOVE

SERMON

HELP ME! HELP ME! ROMANS 15:30-33

• SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCES •

Galatians 6:9-10: Romans 15:30-33: 1 Timothy 6:10: 2 Timothy 2:6-7; Ephesians 6:19-20; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 26:36-41; Job 2:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 4:10, 4:14-15; 3 John 9-10

• SERMON OUTLINE •

INTRODUCTION — (1) We All Need Help In Life | (2) If Alive You'd Come [Galatians 6:9-10] | (3) People Need People | (4) Is It Wrong To Ask For Help? (Romans 15:30-33)

- I. We Must Be Motivated By Christ To Help One Another (v.30)
 - A. Money Motivates But Beware (1 Timothy 6:10)
 - B. What Else Motivates? (2 Timothy 2:6-7)
 - C. Where Do We Get Our Motivation? (v. 30)
 - D. If We're United With Christ & Have Fellowship With The Spirit, What Then?
- II. We Must Struggle With One Another In Prayer (v. 30)
 - Should We Pray For Each Other?
 - B. What Should Our Prayer Life Be Like? (Ephesians 6:19-20)
 - C. It Doesn't Matter How Talented Is The Person Being Prayed For (Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 26, Specifically Verses 36-41)
 - D. Are We Asleep?

[continued on facing page, page 3]

WED NIGHT STUDY

5:00 PM In Fellowship Hall (Use Rear Doors) Please Join Us When Possible!

— To Be Determined —



· August ——

NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL — LADIES HAVE OFF!

– September -

• REGULAR FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK MEAL • after morning service

SERMON [CONTINUED]

HELP ME! HELP ME! ROMANS 15:30-33

- III. We Must Rescue One Another From Evil (vv. 31-33)
 - A. For The Love Of Cookies
 - B. Enemies Abound (Job 2:9-10)
 - C. People Around Us May Contend (Fight) With Us (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3)
 - D. Not Everyone Has Faith Which May Harm Us (2 Timothy 4:10, 4:14-15; 3 John 9-10)
 - E. What Do We Do?

CONCLUSION — (1) Help Me! Help Me! | (2) You Support Me & I'll Support You | (3) How Wins?

• INVITATION •

[continued from front]

So, I was caught off guard by just such a statement – something Paul says, almost in passing, a simple request he makes of the Christians in Rome as he is just about to sign off and close this masterpiece of theology. named Romans. He begs the brothers and sisters there "through our Lord Jesus the Messiah and through the Spirit to strive hard with me in your prayers to God on my behalf." There are two things that Paul takes for granted about prayer that I believe I still struggle to remember and understand.

The first is that prayer is active, not passive. Prayer is intense, aggressive warfare against evil. It is proactive not reactive, it is offensive, not defensive. I know this because the word Paul uses here which is translated "strive hard" is the Greek verb synagonizomai - a word with strong combative connotations. It means to fight on the same side with the apostle Paul against a common enemy to advance a common cause. If you are like me, for most of my Christian life I have viewed prayer as passive, reactionary, defensive. I suppose this is at least in part because I have limited prayer to the mental/verbal activity of speaking to God when, in fact, prayer is the singular mode of Christian living. Every God-directed thing we do is prayer. Our singing is prayer put to music. Our almsgiving, our contribution, is the prayer-currency of our love for both God and humanity. Our service

and obedience is prayer in motion. By the same token, prayer by itself can not be reduced to simply prayers. Prayer encompasses all of our worship and all of our service to others for God.

Paul is dispatching God's elite forces, the Christian equivalent of the Navy Seals or the Green Berets. When we pray properly, we are engaged in the most active and most effective practice of Christian spirituality, and when we pray properly, we will find ourselves aggressively propelled into sanctification and service. It is unfortunate that, in this day and age, the statement "Our prayers are with you" has become so vacuous, void, and inane; so anemic in its theology and practice as to render our prayers sterile.

Brethren, to pray for someone is to commit ourselves to action on their behalf.

When we pray we offer ourselves to God as the very instrument by which God will answer our prayer.

Prayer is not an escape from responsibility but a radical acceptance of it.

The second thing I think we need to remember is that prayer is most definitely trinitarian (a term we don't really use in the Church of Christ as it's considered a philosophical rather than a New Testament term). But have no doubt, we believe in the Trinity. We see here that Paul makes his appeal "through Jesus and the love of the Spirit." He recognizes that prayer is only possible because of the mediation of God the Son, the motivation of God the Spirit, and the invitation of God the Father. Prayer is participation in the eternal three-in-one communication of Father, Son, and Spirit. When we pray sincerely and attentively, we are caught up into the supreme reality of the perfect reciprocal love of Father, Son, and Spirit. We experience the eternal, inextinguishable joy and delight of their fellowship and find ourselves profoundly satisfied.

I am not suggesting that this is obvious to me every time that I pray as it may not be to you but I am suggesting that the more we practice prayer, [continued on page 6]



CURRENT CONCERNS

- May The Will Of GOD, The FATHER Of LOVE, HOPE, COMPASSION, GRACE, MERCY, And RIGHTEOUS Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven!
- People Affected By Natural Disasters In The U.S.A. And Around The World
- Our Local, State & Federal Government Officials, Military, First Responders & Teachers
- Nourishing & Life-giving Rain
- Coronaviruses, Flues & Other Deadly Sicknesses
- Civil Unrest, Racial Strife & Mass Shootings
- War, Unrest & Lack Of Peace In Other Countries

ADDITIONAL PEOPLE FOR WHOM & SITUATIONS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:

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ALL FOLLOWING ENTRIES ARE BY <u>Date Order</u> AND ARE <u>ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME</u>

A SUPERSCRIPTED NUMBER IN BRACKETS, i.e., [1], AT THE END OF AN ENTRY DENOTES HOW MANY WEEK(S) THE ENTRY HAS BEEN PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN

AUGUST 4

- ♦ <u>Spicer</u>, <u>Ronda</u> She is to have right knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, August 7. [NEW]
- ♦ <u>Smoot, Deborah</u> She had right eye cataracts surgery on Friday, July 12 and *Praise To GOD!* all went well. She's to see her doctor this Thursday, August 8, at which time he'll give her his availability to do her second eye. [NEW]
- ♦ <u>Vela, John & Cheryl</u> [Ruane Renninger's son-inlaw & daughter] — Travelling between Texas and Colorado helping their son relocate.

JULY 28

- ♦ <u>Crump</u>, <u>Megan Family</u> [Tom Woodard's great niece] Megan was shot in head by her boyfriend and later died at the hospital. She was buried Wednesday, July 24. The boyfriend's been charged with murder. [01]
- ♦ <u>Dadd, Jaime</u> [Tom Woodard's co-worker at Castle Hills] She's just learned that she has breast cancer at age 30. She's in good spirits, posting videos on Facebook, keeping everyone up to date. [01]
- ♦ <u>Rodriguez</u>, <u>Dolores Family</u> [Coworker at Walmart With Jim & Laura Gardner] Dolores (age 54) was shot and killed by her boyfriend. [01]
- ♦ *Thorse*, *Kaye* [Deborah Smoot's friend from when she was a nurse] She had breast cancer but went into remission. Unfortunately, it's back so, she's now undergoing both radiation & chemo. [01]
- ♦ <u>Woodard</u>, <u>Pat</u> She had the stiches in her head removed several days ago. She's to see her cardiologist on the recommendation of her doctor.

JULY 21

♦ <u>Saldana, Dan</u> [The father of Casey Cole, a friend of the Watkinses'] — He had his colon cancer surgery Monday, July 8th or Tuesday, July 9th (uncertain of exact date as Dan in currently incarcerated) [02]

JULY 14

- ♦ Families Of Four Camden Teenagers They were involved in a stolen truck accident. Two were treated and released, two had serious injuries (in critical care) and one died. [03]
- McMeans, Cody [Melanie & Wendell McMeans' son] — Still cleaning up after Beryl. [03]
- ♦ <u>Renninger, Ruane</u> She continues to have falls, nearly all at home. [03]
- ♦ <u>Smith</u>, <u>Betty</u> She's been feeling fairly poorly, off and on, as of late. [03]

JULY 7

- ♦ <u>Dye, Joyce</u> [Melanie McMeans' sister-in-law's mother] She passed into eternity Friday, June 28 at age 89. [04]
- ♦ <u>Families</u> Affected By A Camden, Arkansas explosion at a weapons facility Wednesday, July 3 Two were injured and one was killed. [04]
- ♦ <u>Green, Dory Ann</u> [Tom Woodard's 29-year-old granddaughter] The procedure to implant tubes in her ears was Tuesday, June 25. All is well and *Praise To GOD!* she is recovering nicely, hoping her ears will finally "pop." [04]
- ♦ <u>LaFleur</u>, <u>Miranda</u> [Friend of Preston Davis (Tom Woodard's friend)] — She was supposed to have had the brain floor rebuild this past Wednesday, July 3.^[04]
- ♦ <u>Meeks, David</u> [Brother of Deanna Glaze, a friend of the Watkinses'] — He's very recently been diagnosed with over 30 separate brain cancer tumors making his cancers inoperable. [04]
- ♦ Neill, Mason [Marble Falls CoC's minister's 20-years-old son] He's very recently been diagnosed with a cancer tumor on his left shoulder. He will have to have surgery as his cancer (Chondro Sarcoma) is a type that is extremely

resistant to chemo and radiation. [04]

♦ *Vela*, *Alix* [Ruane Renninger's grandson] — He was out walking his dog when both were hit by a car. Alex's dog was killed and Alex suffered a concussion and other injuries — he is not doing well according to Ruane, possibly due to the loss of his dog. ^[04]

JUNE 30

♦ All have been updated and moved to a more recent date. [05]

JUNE 23

♦ <u>Shaw, Nancy</u> [Betsy Watkins' longtime friend] — Her cancer markers have not been good. She's started a different infusion for her liver as the old one wasn't working. [06]

ONGOING

NOTE: If You Know Of Anyone Below Who Should Be Placed Back On The Active Detailed List, Please Let Mitch Know.

Alderman, Roy [13]; Barron, Pat Family [17]; Bentley, Sage [13]; Bonin, Danny [14]; Bonin, Donna [14]; Bridgewater, Rebecca [15]; Brown, Hunter [22]; Brown, Jason [07]; <u>Brown</u>, Stephanie [23]; <u>Brown</u>, Tina & Gardner, Sterling [11]; Burris, Gloria [21]; Burris, Joyce [18]; Vela Cheryl's granddaughter Olivia [18]; Flatequal, Fletcher [10]; French, Missae [13]; Green, Sonia [25]; Haby, Casey [15]; Gail Kuehler's sister [12]; Gibbon, Tucker [12]; Last-Name-Unknown, Misty [08]; <u>Lloyd-Brown</u> Family [09]; <u>Lopez</u>, Emily [18]; McLay, Carla [21]; McLay, Gary [21]; McMeans, Justin [07]; McMeans, Velma [06]; Montalvo, Louie [12]; Orr, Dan [07]; Parra, Rudy [13]; Reilly, Mike Family [22]; Renninger, Ruane [07]; Slaughter, Ron [13]; Smith, Bessie Family [25]; Smith, Zachary Family [25]; Smoot, Bailey [13]; Smoot, Cody & Emily [18]; Smoot, Dan'iel [14]; Smoot, Jeremy [13]; Smoot, Randy [17]; Sparks, Janice [15]; Street, Brian [09]; Strunk, Billy [08]; Strunk, Lea [08]; Torres, Donna [07]; Vela, John & Cheryl [15]; Villarreal, Douglas [19]; Vierling, Gene [13]; Watkins, Betsy [13]; Watkins, Mitch [13]; Welsby, Chris [24]

[continued from page 3] the more obvious this becomes and Paul is a particularly good model and teacher. We may not yet be able to pray like Paul, but as for me, I am going to keep practicing Until I'm able. Will you?



WHAT WILL YOU WEAR?

Samuel scratched his skin again. He hated this terrible itch! Yet how could he escape from it? His clothes. That's what the doctor had said. He needed to take off these clothes and put on the ones the doctor had given him. Samuel hastily changed. That was better.

But the following morning, he was back in his old clothes again, just a slightly different outfit. Not until the itch became unbearable did he remember that he was supposed to wear the doctor's garments, which were made out of a different fabric. Samuel realized he needed a plan. He needed to proactively put reminders to himself to wear the new garments. He even asked his brother to say something if he saw Samuel reaching for any of his old clothes.

Even with the reminders and help, Samuel still found himself itching in his old clothes at times. You see, those old clothes were hard to get rid of. They were made of a fabric that simply couldn't be destroyed here on earth. He'd tried burning them, freezing them, and more, but he couldn't get rid of them. He tried to hide them, but they had a way of turning back up. They were trouble-some clothes, to say the least. Samuel realized he'd have to stay vigilant.

I need to put them away and put on my new clothes, he reminded himself over and over again. With time and lots of help, Samuel began wearing his new clothes more and his old, itchy ones less and less. But he knew that the clothes he wore would always be a daily choice.

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in

SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

ROMANS 15:5-9

5 May the <u>God</u> who <u>gives endurance</u> and <u>encouragement</u> give you the <u>same attitude</u> of <u>mind toward</u> each other that Christ <u>Jesus</u> had, 6 so that with one mind and one <u>voice</u> you may <u>glorify</u> the God and <u>Father</u> of our Lord Jesus <u>Christ</u>. 7 <u>Accept</u> one another, then, just as Christ <u>accepted</u> you, in <u>order</u> to <u>bring praise</u> to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has <u>become</u> a <u>servant</u> of the <u>Jews</u> on <u>behalf</u> of God's <u>truth</u>, so that the <u>promises</u> made to the <u>patriarchs</u> might be <u>confirmed</u> 9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles <u>might</u> glorify God for his <u>mercy</u>. As it is written: "<u>Therefore</u> I will praise you <u>among</u> the <u>Gentiles</u>; I will <u>sing</u> the <u>praises</u> of your <u>name</u>."

AXEBHDEMRIFNOCHVGNIS AMEICLKDLXMRKO Ι EDUTITTASDELUDZIYLRC ONLEUXMHHTURTCF RAISET ICCRBREIT SIRHCCKGRCBJGRH Т Τ WLWALMZHAIKDO HCLCJESUSJTIVUL MEGARUOCNEJRAG VARFHEXYOHLOJISTPOSH EWMBWTACCEPT DEA F V E N D U R A N C E O B U Z TAOXNOBLNFVKSWEJA Τ RDRAWOTGENTILES CHETSESIARPJMWFER DSEIVGIVESTOMEU QNUSESIMORPOMWA VITTFNIMACFLAH AMONGMAGVHIENNEKDDWR BRINGGRAPDBACCEPTEDS

you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry....But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another...Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...above all these put on love...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...be thankful" (Colossians 3:5,8,12-15 [ESV]).

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

s.#0.	Tom Woodard	August 1	Birthday
	Carlene Vierling	August 7	Birthday
	Gene & Carlene Vierling	August 8	Anniversary
	Laura Gardner	August 9	Birthday
	Betsy Watkins	August 23	Birthday

If Your Special Day Is Between Today's Date And August 31, 2024 And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Know.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

——————————————————————————————————————			
4th OR 5th Sundays	"Table" Fellowship Potluck Lunch — After Worship From Approximately 12:00PM To 2:00PM Either The 4th Sunday Or 5th Sunday Of Every Month (Except When On Hiatus)		
Every Thursday	Sewing Sisters (All Ladies Welcome!) — Meet In The Fellowship Room From 12:00PM To 2:00PM For Fellowship And To Sew Stuff (Lap Quilts, Bibs, Etc.) For The Needy Or Just To Do Things Together.		
Sun–Aug 11	IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — The Ressurection — for channel: searchtv.com		
Sun-Aug 18	IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — The Judgment — for channel: searchtv.com		
Sun–Aug 25	IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — Heaven — for channel: searchtv.com		
Sun-Sep 1	IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY – TBA – for channel: searchtv.com		
Fri Sat Sun— Sep 27-28-29	Women Of Joy Conference @ San Antonio — Theme: He Must Become Greater; And I Must Become Less Early Bird Rate: \$129 For Entire Conference [womenofjoy.org]		
——— Non-Church Stuff ——— Non-Church Stuff ———— Non-Church Stuff ————			
Every Tuesday	Lytle Friendship Art Club — Fellowship Room From 9:30AM To 1:00PM Plus, Every 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month, The Club Meets For A Business Meeting, Lunch & Demonstration(s)		
3rd Mondays	VFW Auxiliary — Fellowship Room @ 6:00PM		
Sun—Aug 4	American Family Day Coast Guard Birthday (234 Years) Friendship Day		
Mon–Aug 5	National Oyster Day Green Pepper Day		
Wed–Aug 7	Purple Heart Day Raspberries 'n Cream Day National Lighthouse Day		
Fri–Aug 9	National Rice Pudding Day International Day Of The World's Indigenous Peoples		
Sat-Aug 10	National ¹ S'mores And ² Garage Sale Days		
Sun-Aug 11	National ¹ Raspberry Tart And ² Panini And ³ Melon Days		

GOD'S PLAN For Saving Man —

- God's Grace Ephesians 2:8;
- ♦ *Christ's Blood* Romans 5:9;
- ♦ *The Spirit's Gospel* Romans 1:16;
- ♦ Sinner's Faith Acts 16:31;
- ♦ *Sinner's Repentance* Luke 13:3;
- ♦ *Sinner's Confession* Romans 10:10;
- ♦ *Sinner's Baptism* 1 Peter 3:21;
- ◊ Our Work James 2:24;
- ♦ Our Hope Romans 8:24;
- ♦ Our Endurance Revelation 2:10

ARE YOU SAVED BY GOD?
ASK HOW IF YOU'RE UNSURE!

INTERACTIVE

Daily Bible Reading Plan —

To open and/or download the interactive PDF file go to: *video.wvbs.org/spotlight*

DAILY Bible Reading For Edification —



Chronological — Date Order — Biblical Events When Believed To Have Occurred

SUN	Aug 4 - Nah 1-3
MON	Aug 5 - 2 Kgs 22-23, 2 Chr 34-35
TUE	Aug 6 - Zep 1-3
WED	Aug 7 - Jer 1-3
THU	Aug 8 - Jer 4-6
FRI	Aug 9 - Jer 7-9
SAT	Aug 10 - Jer 10-13

Nah = Nahum | Kgs = Kings | Chr = Chronicles Zep = Zephaniah | Jer = Jeremaiah

WANT TO BE

Part Of The Local Family Of Christ?

To be identified as part of our Congregation (aka "place membership"): Fill out a Visitor's Card with all your family information, making sure to check the box on front that says, Wish To Serve In this Congregation, then place the card in the collection plate on the table in the back of the auditorium.

MEMORIZE Scripture —

ROMANS 15:1-4 — ¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

ROMANS 16:17-19 - ¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. ¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

ROMANS $16:25 - {}^{25}$ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith $-{}^{27}$ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.