



# THE LYTLE LIGHT

**YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

— Matthew 5:14a (NKJV)

The believer is 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 MMXXIII

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**

Number 34

**Current Sunday Schedule:** 9:45AM - Bible Study | 10:45AM - Worship

~12:00PM—Every 4th Sunday (Except For Months With 5 Sundays)—Potluck Fellowship Meal

~ 12:00PM—Every 5th Sunday—Potluck Fellowship Meal & Games Following Meal

**Current Wednesday Schedule:** 5:00PM—Bible Study

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

## OH, I JUST QUIT!



We learn early in life how not to be quitters, at least we did back a long, long time ago when I was a small wee lad (Yes... at one time I was quite svelte, believe it or not!). I remember my parents encouraging us to not give up on things we started. I wonder how many of us remember taking piano lessons when they were a kid. Some might have kept with it, but I believe most probably didn't because they didn't much like it. For those who hated taking piano when they were a kid, I'm sure that after weeks and weeks of complaining and not practicing that one of their parents caved and allowed them to quit. Or maybe it was tennis or football or track or . . . fill in the blank. But getting back to the piano; I'm sure many of the quitters as adults may have thought that it would be nice to be able to sit down at a piano and play a tune, even if only to "show off," but they can't, because they chose to quit.

[continued on page 3]



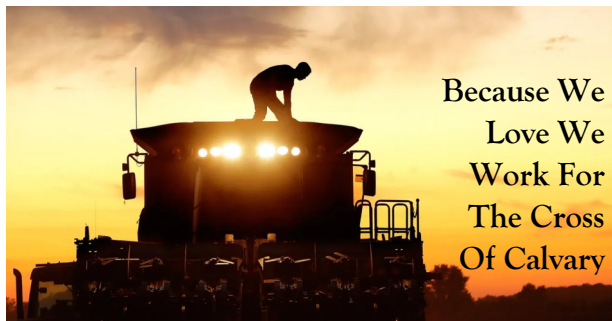
# WELCOME VISITOR!

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 On The Table In The Back Of The Auditorium.

## ORDER OF SERVICE



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

Song No. 3—How Great Thou Art

Song No. 270—To Love Someone More Dearly

- MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER •

Song No. 254—Work For The Night Is Coming

Song No. 271—To The Work

Song No. 147—On The Cross Of Calvary

- LORD'S SUPPER •

- SERMON — *SEE RIGHT COLUMN* •

Invitation Song 264—Christ For The World We Sing

- FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 210—'Tis So Sweet To Trust In...

- PRAYER: OFFERING & CLOSING •
- DEPART TO SERVE IN LOVE •

## SERMON

— FIVE APPEALS TO JUSTIFICATION —

*SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:*

Galatians 5:1-12; Romans 7:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15;  
Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 3:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33;  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Luke 17:2; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Timothy 4:16

*SERMON OUTLINE:*

*INTRODUCTION & REVIEW*

- I. Appeal One: Not To Turn Back (4:8-11)
- II. Appeal Two: Affection For Mankind (4:12-20)
- III. Appeal Three: Know What The Law Says - Two Covenants (4:21-31)
- IV. Appeal Four: Liberty In Christ (5:1-6)
  - A. Freedoms From:
    1. The Law Of Moses
    2. The Bondage Of Sin
    3. The Traditions Of Men
    4. The Works of the Flesh
  - B. Stand Fast In Our Liberty
    1. Handle The Law Properly...
    2. Apply Our Blessings In Christ Liberally...
    3. Deal With Traditions Of Men Cautiously...
    4. Follow The Spirit Diligently...
- V. Appeal Five: Obey The Truth (5:7-12)
  - A. How We Hinder Others
  - B. God's Reaction To These
  - C. How We Avoid Hindrances

*CLOSING & INVITATION*

## WED NIGHT STUDY

SEPTEMBER 6 @ 5:00 PM In Fellowship Hall

Please Join Us If At All Possible!

(Use Rear Doors)

— 1 Thessalonians 4:6-11 —



— SEPTEMBER 24 —

4th Sunday Potluck & Games — After Morning Worship

THEME: TAIL GATE FAVORITES!

— OCTOBER 29 —

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal — After Morning Worship

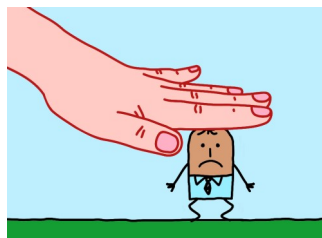
THEME: FALL FIESTA POTLUCK!

And even though learning to play piano was probably easy to give up (at the time), there are things in life that are not so easy; take bad habits or bad behavior, for instance. No matter how hard we try, we just can't seem to give up on those things which seem to give us so much grief and trouble. The Holy Scripture, however, encourages us to do just that. For example:

- Give up complaining . . . Focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments . . . Think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry . . . Trust divine providence.
- Give up discouragement . . . Be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness . . . Turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred . . . Return good for evil.
- Give up anger . . . Practice patience.
- Give up pettiness . . . Put on maturity.
- Give up gloom. . . Enjoy the beauty that is around you.
- Give up jealousy . . . Pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping . . . Control your tongue.
- Give up sin. . . . Turn to virtue.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

## UNDER PRESSURE!



I believe it is interesting to note that of two individuals who are under pressure, one might crumble under the stress of the situation, becoming

a proverbial lump of goo; yet another might excel, arise to the occasion and conquer the adversity. This contrast seems to be true across a spectrum of human experiences: life, family, career, sports. And when it comes to Christianity, this rule of human nature certainly applies! Nothing is able to put our spiritual well-being to the test more than social pressure. We are social beings – well, we were until the advent of social media, an oxymoron if I've ever seen or heard one – and for most of us, we need the company and support of our circle of family and friends – our "tribe." It is unfortunate that not everyone in our circle will be faithful Christians nor even Christian at all, but unbelievers. When we have such feckless Christians and "pagans" in our social group or groups, Satan can and will tap into that community and use them to put us under pressure to do and participate in activities unpleasing

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## I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN (JUST NOT RIGHT NOW)!

The late country music singer Joe Diffie (1958-2020) had a hit song way, way back in 1993 entitled *“Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die).”* The song expresses the sentiment of a good ole country boy who, should he kick the bucket, wants to have his lifeless body posed in the honky tonk that he dearly loves. Even though the song is tongue-in-cheek and is supposed to be funny, if we truly stop and think about it, it's anything but humorous. One line in the chorus goes, “Lord I wanna go to Heaven, but I don't wanna go tonight.” Sadly, this may very well express the true feelings of many Christians today.

A close examination of oneself may reveal that we just love this present world way too much and lack the spiritual maturity to really and truly desire – and be looking forward to – our heavenly home. The Scriptures warn us about placing too much affection in earthly things because it will dampen our longing for the spiritual. Jesus said we must lay up treasure in heaven, not on the earth (Matthew 6:19-21) because our hearts will be where our treasures reside.

It is without a doubt that many, many Christians also feel this way about the second coming of Christ. We all espouse publicly that we're looking forward to His return, just as long as it's not today, or next week,

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Most Current Printout Of  
On-Going Concerns Is

**AUGUST 6, 2023**

Pick Up A Copy Next To The Bulletins!

## CURRENT CONCERNS

- May The Will Of GOD, The FATHER Of LOVE, HOPE, COMPASSION, GRACE & MERCY, And RIGHTEOUS Be Done
- 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
- Coronavirus, Flu & Other Deadly Sicknesses
- Civil Unrest, Racial Strife & *Mass Shootings*
- War, Unrest & Lack Of Peace In Other Countries

## SEPTEMBER 3

PEOPLE/SITUATIONS FOR WHOM /  
WHICH TO PRAY, NOT YET LISTED:

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ALL FOLLOWING ENTRIES ARE BY DATE ORDER  
AND ARE ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME  
A SUPERSCRIPED 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

- ◇ Caught Covid: Betty Smith's granddaughter <sup>[1]</sup>, Megan; Spouse of Art Club Member, Dan Bucheit <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◇ Family Of Farris, Bobbye [Bobbye was a former member] – She passed into eternity Thursday, August 24 at age 102. Her funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5 at 11:00 AM at Boerne Bible Church at 1026 East Blanco Rd in Boerne <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◇ Smoot, Deborah – Her doctor wants to take a conservative approach to the healing of her fractured lumbar (L3) by having Deborah wear a back brace. She's to see the doctor in approximately 4 weeks. <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◇ Spicer, Ronda – **Praise GOD!** her surgical procedure on Monday, August 28 went well. She's feeling okay and should receive the test results by Tuesday, September 5. <sup>[1]</sup>
- ◇ Woodard, Pat – She had two melanomas removed, one from each leg. **Praise GOD!** the doctor said they were able to get it all. <sup>[1]</sup>

## AUGUST 27

- ◇ Cook, Daisy [Laura Gardner's sister] – She broke her wrist. <sup>[2]</sup>
- ◇ Vierling, Cathy [Vierlings' daughter-in-law] – She's travelling to the Philippines to attend a wedding and visit friends and family (the first time in about 20 years). She arrived safely, **Praise GOD!** <sup>[2]</sup>

## AUGUST 20

- ◇ Buchheit, Dan [Spouse of Art Club member] – He's not doing well (he had brain surgery some time ago). He's lost a lot of weight; he's taller than Wendell and is now weighing in at 120 pounds. Prayers for him and his wife Mary (his primary caregiver). <sup>[3]</sup>



- ◇ Burris, Joyce — She's going to have to have weekly shots in her eye for her macular degeneration. <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◇ Stroud, Brenna [Fintel's granddaughter] — Due to a medical condition know as PUPPP (Pruritic Urticarial Papules and Plaques of Pregnancy), a severe but benign inflammatory skin disorder which can occur in the third trimester, she was induced and gave birth to baby Faith Stroud (see below). <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◇ Stroud, Faith [Fintel's newest great granddaughter] — She was born (induced) to Brenna and dad on Thursday, August 17 at 12:27 in the morning. She weighed eight pounds, four ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations Rick and Pam! Baby & mom are doing well except for Brenna's PUPPP (see above) <sup>[3]</sup>

## AUGUST 13

- ◇ Barron, Pat [Laura Gardner's sister-in-law] — She underwent another heart ablation Wednesday, August 9. She is also suffering from stage 4 kidney cancer. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ Hoover, Herb [Pat Barron, Laura Gardner's nephew] — He passed into eternity earlier this past week from heart failure (He'd had heart issues for awhile). <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ Shelton, Judy — She's having several health issues and has undergone several tests and is awaiting results plus she was to undergo several more tests this past week. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ Smith, Philip [Betty Smith's son] — He was involved in an auto accident in which his truck was totaled. **Praise GOD!** He suffered nothing serious, mostly bruises. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ Watkins, Betsy — She's still at home receiving care for her severe edema to both legs among other health issues. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ Watkins, Mitchell — He's been going through a lot with taking care of Betsy, dealing with the aftermath of his father's passing and trying to perform plumbing work with a recalcitrant toilet among other "stuff." <sup>[4]</sup>

## AUGUST 6 & PRIOR

[ALL NAMES FROM 8 WEEKS AGO & PRIOR HAVE BEEN MOVED TO ONGOING PRAYER LIST & WILL APPEAR ON SEPTEMBER'S PRINTOUT]

- ◇ Brock, Jim [Pat Woodard's brother-in-law] — He left respite care due to being uncooperative... He had been placed in respite care due to his dementia and Alzheimer's. <sup>[5]</sup>
- ◇ Clemetson, Allie [Melanie McMeans' great niece] — **Praise GOD!** She'll require no skin grafts after receiving 2nd and 3rd degree gasoline burns on her legs at a bonfire. <sup>[5]</sup>
- ◇ Fintel, Pam — She's been dealing with tonsilitis. The first round of medications didn't help — she's now on some different meds. <sup>[7]</sup>
- ◇ Lester, Kathy [Ruane Renninger's sister-in-law] — She was in an accident and suffered six broken ribs. <sup>[7]</sup>
- ◇ Orr, Myrna [Dan Orr's mother] — **Praise GOD!** She's doing well after her heart procedure on Friday, July 14. <sup>[7]</sup>
- ◇ Renninger, Ruane — A great big hole in the road ran into Ruane's car causing it to stall. She sat on the side of the road for a spell before she got it started again. Gene Vierling is supposed to check the vehicle over but so far it seems to be fine. She also continues to heal from her recent fall. <sup>[6]</sup>
- ◇ Sparks, Janice [Tom Woodard's daughter] — She saw her cardiologist on Monday, July 10th for low blood pressure issues. She's on some new meds or adjusted old ones. <sup>[7]</sup>
- ◇ Vierling, Carlene — **Praise GOD!** All scans and tests have come back negative. <sup>[7]</sup>

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**If anyone thinks himself to be religious [scrupulously observant of the rituals of his faith], and does not control his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religion is worthless (futile, barren).**  
— James 1:26 (AMP)

# SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

Matthew 21:18-22

<sup>18</sup> Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. <sup>20</sup> And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" <sup>21</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done." <sup>22</sup> And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."



N D E N R U T E R G Q D E N O W H E G F  
E M Q D A V C A X D E R E H T I W K M A  
X R A O G D Y S U Z P R A Y E R B H O I  
H Y E N A E L S H U N G R Y P K S A R T  
E S S E I R E U D N I A T N U O M K N H  
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T E B H C S I D O H I E Y M S H O F G S  
P C U A V N D L F W D C C O T T F J E Q  
U E O T F A E Y K B G D F V S I Y V D A  
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G V G V R Y M P Y L T L I D C E U S R L  
V E N E Z T I B F I F E U Q L S E T S R  
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O J T S E E I N G I Z A Y I I F M B I D  
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M F N G H G M N L W I S W I C A K Q R R  
Q I F V F E E N Y D N A J B L Q D S J G

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to God. One of the best examples can be seen in our attendance of the worship service. Family and friends will pressure us to join them in weekend activities that pull us away from the church and her worship of almighty God. When we give in to the pressure, we become bad examples to our unbelieving friends. How will they ever be brought to Christ by watching our own unfaithfulness? And don't believe for a second that the devil doesn't enjoy that!

This principle can be applied to all aspects of our spiritual lives. Brethren, instead of giving into social pressures, we must rise to the challenge and remain steadfast, setting the best of examples for those who are outside the body of Christ, "that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing" (1 Thessalonians 4:12).

<sup>28</sup> "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; <sup>29</sup> but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" — <sup>30</sup> because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

— Mark 3:28-30

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or well... Not even in our lifetime! But Jesus, our Savior said, "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching." (Luke 12:37) Brethren, if we are not eagerly waiting for Christ to come again, then perhaps we've got some spiritual growth yet to accomplish. Could it be that we are so richly blessed with family, friends, and material wealth that we have no desire to be with the Lord?

Peter encourages us to be ready and enthusiastic about going to heaven. "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things [the Day of the Lord], be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation" (2 Peter 3:14-15a).

# ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Ruane Renninger	September 5	Birthday
Roger Smoot	September 8	Birthday
Ronda Spicer	September 19	Birthday
Billy & Lea Strunk	October 8	Anniversary
Jim & Laura Gardner	October 10	Anniversary

*If Your Special Day Is Between Today's Date And October 10, 2023,  
And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Know.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## — Church Stuff —

4th OR 5th Sundays	 <p><b>"Table" Fellowship Potluck Lunch –</b>  <i>After Worship From Approximately 12:00PM To 2:00PM</i>                      Every 4th Sunday Of <b>Every</b> Month EXCEPT For Months With a 5th Sunday</p>
Every Monday	 <p><b>Sewing Sisters (All Ladies Welcome!) –</b> 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.</p>
<b>TODAY!</b>	 <p><b>4th Sunday Fellowship Meal &amp; Games Play After Morning Worship –</b>                      Theme: Sandwiches &amp; Cool Salads</p>
Sun–Sep 10	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY – <i>Obeying The Lord</i> –</b> for channel: <a href="http://searchtv.com">searchtv.com</a></p>
Sun–Sep 17	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY – <i>The Kingdom Of God</i> –</b> for channel: <a href="http://searchtv.com">searchtv.com</a></p>

## — Non Church Stuff —

Every Tuesday	 <p><b>Lytle Friendship Art Club –</b> Fellowship Room From 9:30AM To 1:00PM                      Plus, Every 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month, The Club Meets For A Business Meeting, Lunch &amp; Demonstration(s)</p>
3rd Mondays	 <p><b>VFW Auxiliary –</b> Fellowship Room @ 6:00PM</p>
4th Tuesdays	 <p><b>Quail Creek Ranches Property Owners Association (QCRSPOA) –</b>                      Fellowship Room @ 6:30PM</p>
Sun–Sep 3	<b>National Welch Rarebit Day &amp; Pet Rock Day &amp; U.S. Bowling League Day</b>
Mon–Sep 4	<b>Labor Day &amp; Eat An Extra Dessert Day &amp; National Spice Blend Day</b>
Thu–Sep 7	<b>National Acorn Squash Day &amp; Salami Day &amp; National Grateful Patient Day</b>
Fri–Sep 8	<b>National Pledge Of Allegiance Day &amp; Star Trek Day</b>
Sun–Sep 10	<b>National Grandparents Day &amp; National Hot Dog Day</b>



## 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](http://video.wvbs.org/spotlight)

## DAILY Bible Reading —



### Immersive — Through OT Once & NT Three Times

SUN	Isa 11; Isa 12; Mat 21; Mat 22
MON	Isa 13; Isa 14; Mat 23; Mat 24
TUE	Isa 15; Isa 16; Mat 25; Mat 26
WED	Isa 17; Isa 18; Mat 27; Mat 28
THU	Isa 19; Isa 20; Mrk 1; Mrk 2
FRI	Isa 21; Isa 22; Mrk 3; Mrk 4
SAT	Isa 23; Isa 24; Mrk 5; Mrk 6

## WANT TO BE

### Part Of Our Local Family?

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 —

### VARIOUS VERSES FROM MATTHEW & MARK

*Matthew 22:34-40* — <sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

*Mark 4:21-25* — <sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand?” <sup>22</sup> For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.” <sup>24</sup> “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – and even more. <sup>25</sup> Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

*Mark 4:26-29* — <sup>26</sup> He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”