



THE LYTLE LIGHT

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

— Matthew 5:14a [NKJV]

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 MMXXV

JANUARY 12, 2025

Number 03

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

Wednesday Schedule: 4:00PM — Bible Study

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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.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH — THE TRUTH & THE PAIN — PART 2

As I stated in last week's bulletin, with the new year, I've thought about my spiritual growth (or lack thereof) and in doing some reading I come across Luke 3:9 and wonder what does this verse mean in practical, everyday terms.

These are the words of John the Baptist: "The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire" (Luke 3:9). Note this one phrase: "The ax is laid at the root of the tree."

Last week I stated that my intention was to do three things: First, I want to explain what I believe this verse to be telling us. Second, I want to tell you a story. And third, I want to make a practical application. That's it, the whole article: **one verse, one story, and an application.**



In continuation of the first part, **THE VERSE**, way back in 19-long-long-time-ago (to use one of Tom's sayings) I lived in Charleston, SC where, though I was single and in the Navy, had bought a house. In the front yard was a Sweet Gum tree. If you're not familiar with Sweet Gums, they tend to be beautiful, symmetrical trees with lovely glossy green five-pointed leaves which turn first gold and then a glorious red in


[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.



Since The Love Of God Has Shed Priceless Blessings On Our Heads, We Glory In The Fact That His Divine Love Has Lifted Us And Saved Us And Given Us The Gift Of God's Sweet Peace By Which We Are Redeemed In Christ



ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Song No. 36—The Love Of God

Song No. 616—Love Lifted Me

- MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER •

Song No. 439—Love Divine

Song No. 43—Sweet Peace, The Gift Of God's Love

Song No. 178—By Christ Redeemed



- LORD'S SUPPER •
- SERMON — SEE RIGHT COLUMN •

Invitation Song No. 146—My Jesus, I Love Thee

- FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 471—Blest Be The Tie That Binds

- PRAYER: OFFERING & CLOSING •

SERMON

— RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH —

• SOME SERMON SCRIPTURES •

2 Timothy 2:14-19; Genesis 6:14;
2 Corinthians 3:6,14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Hebrews 10:9; Matthew 28:18-20;
Hebrews 9:18-22; Romans 7:1-4

• SERMON OUTLINE •

INTRODUCTION - (1) Scriptures Must Be Handled Well (2) Salvation Learned From It

- I. Two Great Divisions Of The Bible
 - A. Old Testament
 - B. New Testament
 - C. A Simple Help
- II. The Testaments Contrasted
 - A. The Old Testament
 - B. The New Testament
- III. Cannot Live Under Both
- IV. We Are Not Under the Old
- V. We Are Under the New

CONCLUSION (1) Must Handle Scriptures Properly (2) The Old Is A Tutor (3) The New Is Our Rule Of Life

• INVITATION •



WED NIGHT STUDY

Winter Time: 4 PM In Fellowship Room (Rear Doors)

— Problems The Church Faced —

“TABLE” FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025 (PROPOSED)

— FEBRUARY 16 —

— MARCH 30 (ANNUAL PICNIC) —

— MAY 25 — JULY 27 —

— SEPTEMBER 28 — NOVEMBER 23 —

— DECEMBER 28 (NEW YEARS “EVE”) —

[continued from front]

the fall. And my tree the same: A striking, good looking tree with one exception — the seed pods. Oh, those pods! They were green and spiky in the summer hanging from the branches like bright green Christmas ornaments. But then they fade to a hard spiky medium brown color in the fall before dropping to the ground in (what seemed to me) the millions! This of course drew the finches, nuthatches and chickadees who came pressing their small beaks into the Sweet Gum balls' many chambers, extracting the two small seeds that each chamber contained. And birds, being birds, left me with their "offerings" all over the roof, sidewalks and driveway. Now let me tell you, I found these pods to be one of the greatest threats to mankind I'd ever encountered up to that point in my life (can you say sprained ankles?!). So, I determined that that tree had to go!

I gathered together several of my friends, one of whom had a chainsaw, to take down the evil



tree. Now the tree was about 60 foot tall and was only about 25 feet from the front porch but we somehow managed to not only take it down, but managed to miss all the structures, neighbors yards and the street.

So, the tree had to go, regardless of how pretty it was, and though I considered pruning the tree instead, I knew that branches had a habit of growing back. Not only that, but appearances can be deceiving. Even though the tree looked to be the very picture of health, when the deed was done, the inside was nearly rotted out — it was only a matter of time before the tree might have fallen down on its own in the next strong wind!

You see, the problem with laying the ax (or in my case, the chainsaw) at the root is that it's not easy or quick. You must keep digging. And believe me, trying to dig out the roots of my tree was

so very difficult I finally had to rent a chipper to take it down to below ground. In other words, the work isn't done until the root has been cut off.

If we apply that principle to the spiritual life, we end up with this truth. Spiritual growth is sometimes very painful because you have to get down to the root issues.

THE STORY — This leads me to mention a young man, my age, I met at Dorchester-Waylyn Baptist church when I was living in Charleston.

We started attending about the same time but first, let me set the scene. City churches are quite different from suburban churches and very different from rural churches.

City churches are different because cities are different and Dorchester-Waylyn was smack in the middle of Charleston and pretty much equidistant between the Naval base, the Weapons base, the Coast Guard base and the Air Force base. There were also several colleges and universi-

ties scattered around Charleston, from the Citadel (a premier military school) to Charleston University to Charleston Southern University to Charleston School of Law to the other 10 universities and colleges.

In my four years there, I found out that Dorchester-Waylyn was a "transient" church. If you're not familiar with a military and higher education city where there are multiple universities and military bases, let me tell you, there's a lot of turnover. There were many, many young people (like me) who came for awhile for a multiplicity of reasons: jobs, school, military or just to be with their friends. Dorchester-Waylyn had hundreds of people who came and went every year. That's something I hadn't experienced in my young life to that point. In one year alone I remember the con-

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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 – Hurricanes Helena in NC & Milton in FL*
- 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:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____

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

JANUARY 12

- ◇ All The People Affected By The California Wildfires
- ◇ Brubaker, Donna [Lady Taking Care Of Carol Vierling's house in Indiana] – She learned she needs hip replacement surgery very soon. Pre-op procedures started Thursday, January 8. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Burkholder, Tom [Laura Gardner's nephew] – During a recent scan, doctors found three tumors. The results of a biopsy showed he has one of three possible blood cancers to be determined. He will begin chemo soon. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Burris, Joyce – She felt good enough to be with us last Sunday, *Praise To GOD!* David and Tanya brought her. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Guzman, Emily [Tom Woodard's hair "stylist"] – She has cancer and has been given about 18 months to live whether she has treatment or no. She's elected not to have any treatments. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Harpo, Charlotte [Tom Woodard's football official friend, Charlie's wife] – She is suffering from either dementia or Alzheimer's ^[NEW]
- ◇ LaFleur, Miranda [Tom Woodard's friend Preston's friend] – She is now awaiting cosmetic surgery to correct some things after her brain surgery. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Last Name Unknown, Jeremy [11-year-old grandson of a friend of Troy & Mandy Smoot] He has contracted encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and is in the hospital. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Mass Killing and Injury of those people in New Orleans who were mowed down by a man in a truck. ^[NEW]
- ◇ May, Doug [Member of the Natalia congregation] – He has brain cancer. ^[NEW]
- ◇ Thomas, Ashton [Tom Woodard's great niece's daughter] – She had a cyst removed and doing

well... just waiting for test results. ^[NEW]

- ◇ Vierling, Carlene — She's feeling much better. Prayerfully, it'll last! ^[NEW]
-

JANUARY 5

- ◇ Waddell, Julie [Betty Smith's niece] — She is scheduled to have cancer surgery sometime this month. ^[01]
-

DECEMBER 29

- ◇ All moved To January 5 ^[02]
-

DECEMBER 22

- ◇ Brown, Abby & Colton — She's with child, *Praise To GOD!* Please be in prayer for her, the developing baby, Colton and Phoenix. ^[03]
- ◇ Watkins, Mitch — His middle back has been killing him and the cough he's had for about two to three months (Yes, he's been to the doctor) makes it hurt even more. ^[03]
- ◇ Woodard, Sue [Tom's brother's ex-spouse] — She had a shoulder operation somewhat recently and it was successful, *Praise To GOD!* ^[03]
-

DECEMBER 15

- ◇ Flatequal, Pam — She had a toothache and had the offending tooth pulled. ^[04]
- ◇ Last Name Unknown, Auggie [Auggie is the approximately five-year-old son of an attorney friend of Mark Cashion (friend of the congregation)] — He is having to undergo heart surgery to reattach one of his main artery's to one or both of his lungs. ^[04]
- ◇ Renninger, Ruane — She received a good report from her cardiologist (pacemaker implant), *Praise To GOD!* but she's still feeling a lot of pain all over. ^[04]
- ◇ Vireling, Gene — His 2nd cataract surgery was Thursday, December 12 and was successful. Also, His lymph glands are shrinking per his doctor, so, *Praise To GOD!* for both. ^[04]

DECEMBER 8

- ◇ Boaz, Jenson [Tom Woodard's friend, Barry Morris' five-year-old grandson] — His heart surgery went well, *Praise To GOD!* ^[05]
- ◇ Strunk, Lea — She's still struggling with her health ^[05]
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ONGOING CONCERNS

NOTE: All Concern(s) Above Remain On The Active Detailed List Until Room Is Needed For Newer Concern(s) At Which Time The Concern(s) Which Are Oldest Will Be Moved To This Ongoing List. If I Move Someone To This Ongoing List That You Believe Should Go Back On The Active Detailed List, Please Let Mitch Know. *All Concern(s) Below Will Remain On This Ongoing List For 26 Weeks. Removal Can Be Requested Earlier But Concern(s) Will Be Automatically Removed At The 27th Week.*

Alderson, Yolanda ^[16]; Attwood Family ^[10]; Baron, Russ ^[16]; Bonin, Donna ^[16]; Brown, Abby ^[08]; Brown, Charlie & Diane ^[09]; Brown, Jason ^[27]; Brown, Norman ^[14]; Capshaw, Mike ^[4]; Cardwell, Aubrey ^[10]; Chant Family ^[14]; Cook, Karen ^[16]; Crumpp, Megan Family ^[21]; Dadd, Jaime ^[21]; Davis, Randy ^[10]; Duncan, Roberta ^[18]; Dye Family ^[27]; Families Of Four Camden Teenagers ^[27]; Felts, Barbara ^[18]; Fintel, Rick ^[19]; Flatequal Family ^[16]; Flatequal, Jessie Jr. ^[06]; Flatequal, Loren ^[18]; Garcia, Kara ^[14]; Glaze, Deanna ^[12]; Green, Dori Ann ^[27]; Kuehler, Gail's sister ^[27]; Harpo, Charlotte ^[11]; LaFleur, Miranda ^[10]; Maldonado, Michael ^[07]; McMeans, Melanie ^[14]; McMeans, Velma ^[14]; McMeans, Wendell ^[14]; Neill, Mason ^[18]; Orr, Dan ^[27]; Orr-Burris Families ^[16]; Para, Rudy ^[10]; Ramirez, Arilio Family ^[18]; Renninger, Ruane ^[18]; Renteria, Robert ^[16]; Richmond, Craig Family ^[17]; Rodriguez, Dolores Family ^[27]; Roeder, Gary ^[05]; Saldana, Dan ^[27]; Shaw, Nancy Family ^[05]; Smith, Betty ^[05]; Smoot, Dan'iel ^[12]; Street, Jenna Family ^[07]; Street-Olszewski, Zade Cole ^[07]; Strunk, Billy ^[19]; Thorse, Kaye ^[27]; Torres, Donna ^[27]; Vela, Alix ^[27]; Vierling, Hannah ^[14]; Voight, Wayne Family ^[08]; Walker, Tony ^[05]; Weitzel, Michelle ^[16]

[continued from page 3]

gregation reporting that there'd been over 300 people coming and going. The takeaway: No one stays forever. In that same report, the congregation had figured out that the average young person stayed in church about 18 months so, yes, I was the exception, staying there a whole four years before moving back to Texas. That meant that Dorchester-Waylyn was a "one-stop-shop" like those corner gas stations that double as grocery stores.

No one stayed in the church forever. People would show up, stay a while, and then leave.

Back to the friend I made while attending. He came to Dorchester-Waylyn claiming he had come from a Christian home and that he knew Jesus. And he had a story to tell. You see, somewhere along the way he'd made a wrong turn into sexual sin. As a result, he contracted a disease that might one day take his life. I knew that much because he was open about his past.

He hung around for a year, made some friends (like me), got involved, and then disappeared. And that was fairly typical.

During that year we talked about many things and one day, as we talked about life in general, I asked what he'd learned on his journey thus far. He told me, "Mitch, you've got to lay the ax at the root of the tree." I didn't know what he meant, so I asked him to explain. He shared what he had learned through hard experience. When dealing with entrenched sin, you can't chop at the leaves or try to hack off the branches. You've got to get down to the root. "But that hurts too much for most people," he said. "Believe me, I know."

At that time I vaguely realized he was quoting the Bible when he told me that, but I didn't know the reference. His comment has stayed buried in my memories for just shy of 30 years. And then it came back to me when I was researching this article and recalled the issue with my Sweet Gum tree.

Next week: **THE APPLICATION**

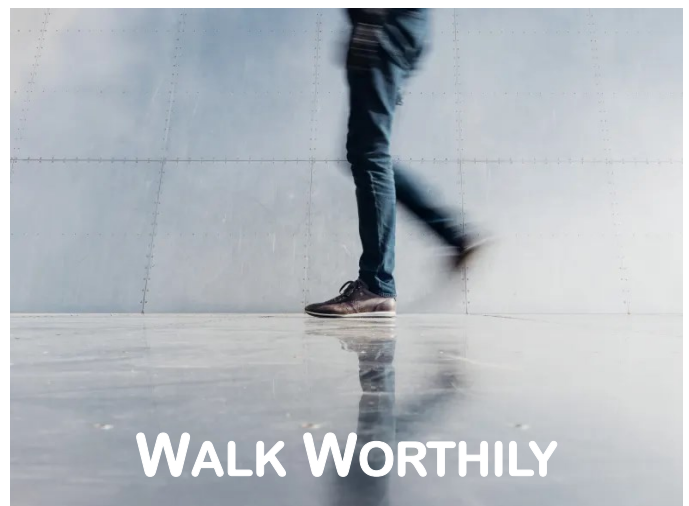
PART 3 CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

1 THESSALONIANS 2:10-13

¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹ as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, ¹² that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. ¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

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



ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Dan Orr	January 11	Birthday
Billy Strunk	January 26	Birthday
Jim Gardner	January 30	Birthday
Rick Fintel	February 16	Birthday
Mitch & Betsy Watkins / Pam Flatequal	February 22	Anniversary / Birthday

*If Your Special Day Is Between Today's Date And February 28, 2025
And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Know.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

———— Church Stuff ——— Church Stuff ——— Church Stuff ———

4th OR 5th Sundays	 "Table" Fellowship Potluck Lunch — <i>After Worship From Approximately 12:00PM To 2:00PM</i> Either The 4th Sunday Or 5th Sunday Of Every Other 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—Jan 19	 IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — Accountable To God
Sun—Jan 26	 IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — Obedience
Sun—Feb 2	 IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — Seed In Our Hearts
Sun—Feb 9	 IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — Healthy Christianity
Sun—Feb 16	 IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — The Greatest Love

Go To
searchtv.org
For Local
Channel
And Time

———— Non-Church Stuff ——— Non-Church Stuff ——— Non-Church Stuff ———

Every Tuesday	 Lytle Friendship Art Club — Fellowship Room At 9:30AM. On Every 2nd Tuesday Of The Month, The Club Meets For A Business Meeting, A Lunch & A Demonstration(s)
3rd Mondays	VFW Auxiliary — Fellowship Room @ 6:00PM 
Sun—Jan 12	National ¹ Curried Chicken And ² Marzipan Days 
Mon—Jan 13	National ¹ Gluten-Free And ² Peach Melba Days 
Tue—Jan 14	National ¹ Dress Up Your Pet And ² Hot Pastrami Sandwich Days 
Wed—Jan 15	Martin Luther King's Birthday & National ¹ Strawberry Ice Cream And ² Bagel Days
Thu—Jan 16	International Hot & Spicy Foods Day & National Fig Newton Day 
Sat—Jan 18	National ¹ Peking Duck And ² Gourmet Coffee And ³ Thesaurus Days 
Sun—Jan 19	World Snow Day & National Popcorn Day 

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 —



The Bible In "90" —

Read The Entire Bible Through In "90" Days (88 Plus Two Grace Days) = 4 Times Thru This Year!

SUN	Jan 12 – Num 21:8 - Num 32:19
MON	Jan 13 – Num 32:20 - Deu 7:26
TUE	Jan 14 – Deu 8:1 - Deu 23:11
WED	Jan 15 – Deu 23:12 - Deu 34:12
THU	Jan 16 – Jos 1:1 - Jos 14:15
FRI	Jan 17 – Jos 15:1 - Jdg 3:27
SAT	Jan 18 – Jdg 3:28 - Jdg 15:12

Num = Numbers / Due = Deuteronomy
Jos = Joshua / Jdg = Judges

WANT TO BE

Part Of This Local Family Of Christ?

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

MEMORIZE Scripture —

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-5; 6-8; 9-10

²We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

⁶And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

⁹For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

