



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

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Number 50

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

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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.

ENMITY WITH GOD?

Have you ever wondered, really wondered what exactly James meant when he said in chapter four of verse four that friendship with the world is enmity with God? There is an old corollary that states the "enemy of my enemy is my friend." It is sometimes stated as the "friend of my enemy is my enemy." James is saying the same thing here. After observing rampant worldliness in the lives of his readers, James launches into a warning (James 4:1-17) with this harsh assessment: "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4, ESV). Enmity is animosity, the state of being actively opposed to something or someone. Enmity is also hostility toward someone or something; it is true hatred; it is vindictiveness and often the desire to utterly and completely destroy the thing or person that is the object of said enmity. Brethren, enmity is a VERY strong word.

A common biblical metaphor used for spiritual unfaithfulness in our relationship
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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



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

Song No. 659—Joy To The World

Song No. 666—Angels We Have Heard On High &

Psalm 49:1-4; 8-9; 18 To Same Tune

- MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER •

Song No. 311—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Song No. 492—Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All

Not In Song Book—Lamb Of God



- LORD'S SUPPER •



- SERMON — SEE RIGHT COLUMN •

Invitation Song No. 631—No One Ever Cared For Me

- FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 118—I Will Sing The Wondrous ...

PRAYER: OFFERING & CLOSING

- DEPART TO SERVE IN LOVE •

SERMON



— THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS —

• SCRIPTURE REFERENCES •

01 Timothy 3:14-16; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Matthew 7:29; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:3-6; cf. 2:11-22; John 1:11; 1 Corinthians 1:23; Colossians 3:1-4; Titus 2:11-14

• SERMON OUTLINE •

INTRODUCTION — (1) Proper Conduct "In The House Of God" | (2) THE "The Mystery Of Godliness"

- I. The Greatness Of The Mystery
 - (A) What Is A "Mystery"
 - (B) The Mystery Revealed
- II. The Greatness Of Godliness
 - (A) God In The Flesh
 - (B) Justified In The Spirit
 - (C) Seen By Angels
 - (D) Preached Among The Gentiles
 - (E) Believed On In The World
 - (F) Received Up In Glory

CONCLUSION — (1) This Mystery Will Be Finished | (2) Deity Lived In This World Of Sin

• INVITATION •

WED NIGHT STUDY

DECEMBER 13 @ 5:00 PM In Fellowship Hall

Please Join Us When Possible! (Use Rear Doors)

— 1 Corinthians 5:3-9 —



OUR FUTURE "TABLE" FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

— DECEMBER 31 —

5th Sunday New Years Eve - After Morning Worship

THEME: TRADITIONAL POTLUCK

— MARCH 17 —

3rd Sunday Fellowship - After Morning Worship

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Truck Route Supplies Requested:

Oreos



Potato Chip Variety Packs



Spaghetti Sauce



Refried Beans



Pickup: Dec 12-13, 2023

[continued from front]

with God is adultery (Jeremiah 3:20; Ezekiel 16). Nowhere is this imagery more evident than in the book of Hosea (Hosea 2:1-23). While God showed unfailing love to Israel, they responded with faithlessness, immorality, and idolatry.

Scripture depicts God as the husband of His people (Isaiah 54:5; 2 Corinthians 11:2) and believers as His bride (Jeremiah 2:2; 2; Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 21:7, 9). So, when James calls his readers “adulterers and adulteresses” (James 4:4, NKJV), the implication is clear: to the God who has loved His people unsparingly and relentlessly, what could be more painful than their heartless betrayal?

James calls out a challenge to people who have turned their hearts away from God and fallen in love with the world. When he speaks of “the world,” I think he means the world system or world order, consisting of people whose beliefs, values, and morals are in opposition and rebellion to God’s. The goals and objectives of “the

world” are in direct contrast to God’s commands. To cling to the world is to choose enmity with God.

James warns believers not to cultivate a life-style that resembles “friendship with the world.” We must never pursue the ideals, morals, goals, or purposes of the world but instead “seek first [God’s] kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

Through repetition, James emphasizes that “friendship with the world is enmity with God” and “whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” With the same Greek word translated “enmity” in James 4:4, Paul denounces the worldly mindset: “The mind governed by the flesh is hostile [enmity against] to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7-8).

We must be careful not to deceive ourselves into thinking that we can live in close fellowship with God and, at the same time, set our hearts on the things of this world. We must “remember what happened to Lot’s wife!” (Luke 17:32, NLT). The apostle Paul teaches Christians to cultivate a singular focus: “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:1-3, NLT).

So, what does friendship with the world look



like? How can we be sure we’re not setting ourselves up to be enemies of God? One clear indication that we have made friends with the

world is our behavior. Are we acting like the people of the world? Do we quarrel, covet, and fight (James 4:1-2)? Do we “harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition” in our hearts? Do we “boast” and “deny the truth?” Do we “find disorder and every

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bara's nephew] — He's still fighting a fungal infection and was readmitted to the hospital. He's now got RSV ^[1]

- ◇ Torres, Donna [Valerie Tafoya (Friend of the congregation)'s mother] — She is to have chemo treatments starting on Monday, November 27. ^[1]

NOVEMBER 26

- ◇ No New As Of This Printing ^[2]

NOVEMBER 19

- ◇ LeFluer, Miranda [Preston Davis' (Tom's friend) friend] — She was in an automobile accident recently and is in the hospital for what looks to be a long stay. She had some brain swelling but doctors have been "bleeding it off" and she was to have surgery on her chin Monday, November 13. No word as of this printing on how her surgery went. She's starting to get some mobility back... ^[3]
- ◇ McMeans, Wendell — His back has been giving him issues. ^[3]

NOVEMBER 12

- ◇ Bippert Family — [Cheryl, Roger's cousin], along with her husband and daughter were in a traffic accident. Cheryl sustained several broken ribs and is now wearing a brace and taking breathing exercises, *she's still in Sontera and is not doing well with he PT*, her husband, Ernest, was killed (His service was October 20) and Cheryl's daughter suffered some minor injuries — mostly from the seatbelt. ^[4]
- ◇ Boldt, Sandy [Schoolmate of Roger & Deborah Smoot] — She is fighting cancer — her whole body is riddled which has necessitated several surgeries with more required. ^[4]
- ◇ Fintel, Pam — She's been dealing a leg issue — there was an infection for which she received medications. She also recently had to give 17 vials of blood for testing — her doctor thinks something may be wrong with her liver. ^[4]
- ◇ Last-Name-Unknown, Nancy [Strunks' Neighbor]

— She's been diagnosed with a brain tumor. ^[4]

- ◇ Lloyd, Linda — She was released from the hospital after her heart ablation Wednesday night, November 1 and is now at home. ^[4]

NOVEMBER 5

- ◇ Davis Family [Mitch Watkins' best friend from the Navy] — His mother passed into eternity Wednesday a week ago. ^[5]
- ◇ Dye, Joyce [Melanie's sister-in-law's mother] — She has lived 10 years since her first diagnosis of cancer, having been told she only had a year or two. Her cancer has returned and the outlook is two months. ^[5]
- ◇ Moore, Michael & Michelle [Tom Woodard's son-in-law & daughter] — November 1st was the 10th anniversary of Joshua's passing. ^[5]
- ◇ Woodard, Sue [The late, great, Bubba Woodard's wife & Tom Woodard's sister-in-law] — She's at home and is recovering nicely from her back surgery. ^[5]

OCTOBER 29

- ◇ Montalvo, Louie [Laura Gardner's son's best friend] — He was in and out of the hospital again this past week. He suffers from several health issues, mostly heart and diabetes. He appreciates our prayers and asks that they continue. ^[6]

OCTOBER 22 & OLDER

Barron, Pat ^[16]; Brown, Scott ^[9]; Brock, Jim ^[16]; Bucheit Family ^[10]; Clemetson, Allie ^[16]; Cook, Daisy ^[16]; Davis Family ^[10]; Farris Family ^[15]; Haass Family ^[18]; Halverson Family ^[10]; Hoover, Herb ^[16]; Lester, Kathy ^[19]; Noble Family ^[8]; Mays, Alice ^[9]; Orr, Myrna ^[18]; Orr & Burris Families ^[13]; Parra, Rudy ^[10]; Renninger, Ruane ^[15]; Shelton, Judy ^[16]; Slaughter, Ron ^[9]; Smith, Philip ^[16]; Smith, Betty ^[8]; Smith, Zachary ^[10]; Sparks, Janice ^[18]; Spicer, Ronda ^[13]; Stroud, Brenna & Derrick ^[15]; Stroud, Faith ^[15]; Vierling, Carlene ^[18]; Vierling, Carol ^[13]; Villarreal, Nick ^[13]

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evil practice” in our lives (James 3:13-18)? Or instead, do we display “deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom?” Are we “peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere” (also James 3:13-18)? Brethren, that means friendship with the world rubs off on our character.

If anything or anyone takes a more important place in our lives than our relationship with God and Jesus Christ, we have probably entered into friendship with the world and enmity with God. That means that love for God and love for the world are mutually exclusive! Jesus confirmed this when he said, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other” (Matthew 6:24).

Pursuing friendship with the world puts us at odds with God and in danger of forfeiting our souls (Mark 8:36). On the other hand, if we seek intimate fellowship with Jesus by giving up our OWN way, taking up OUR cross and following Him, we gain everything we need in this life and in the one to come. If we try to hang on to the old worldly way of life, Jesus said we will end up losing everything. But if we give up our lives to cultivate friendship with Christ for the sake of the gospel, then we gain salvation and everlasting life with Him (Mark 8:35)!



Gain The World? Lose The Soul!

SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

JAMES 4:1-4

¹ Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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



ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Abbey Vierling	December 11	Birthday (18 Today!)
Roger & Deborah Smoot	December 21	Anniversary
Dan Orr	January 11	Birthday
Billy Strunk	January 26	Birthday
Jim Gardner	January 30	Birthday

*If Your Special Day Is Between Today's Date And January 31, 2023,
And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Know.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

— Church Stuff —

4th OR 5th Sundays	 <p>"Table" Fellowship Potluck Lunch — <i>After Worship From Approximately 12:00PM To 2:00PM</i> Every 4th Sunday Of Every Month EXCEPT For Months With a 5th Sunday</p>
Every Monday	 <p>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.</p>
Sun—Dec 17	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>When The Heart Breaks</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>
Sun—Dec 24	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>With Christ</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>
Sun—Dec 31	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>A Good Conscience</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>

— Non Church Stuff —

Every Tuesday	 <p>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)</p>
3rd Mondays	 <p>VFW Auxiliary — Fellowship Room @ 6:00PM</p>
4th Tuesdays	 <p>Quail Creek Ranches Property Owners Association (QCRSPOA) — Fellowship Room @ 6:30PM</p>
Sun—Dec 10	Nobel Prize Day Worldwide Candle Lighting Day
Mon—Dec 11	National Bagel & Noodle Ring Days National App Day
Tue—Dec 12	Gingerbread House Day National Ambrosia Day National Poinsettia Day
Wed—Dec 13	National Ice Cream & Hot Cocoa & Cream Cheese Frosting Days
Fri—Dec 15	National Cupcake Day International Tea Day Cat Herders' Day
Sat—Dec 16	National Chocolate Covered Anything Day National Wreaths Across America Day
Sun—Dec 17	National Maple Syrup Day Wright Brothers 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 —



Immersive — Through OT Once & NT 3 Times

SUN	Amos 7; Amos 8; Heb 13; Jas 1
MON	Amos 9; Oba 1; Jas 2; Jas 3
TUE	Jnh 1; Jnh 2; Jas 4; Jas 5
WED	Jnh 3; Jhn 4; 1 Pet 1; 1 Pet 2
THU	Mic 1; Mic 2; 1 Pet 3; 1 Pet 4
FRI	Mic 3; Mic 4; 1 Pet 5; 2 Pet 1
SAT	Mic 5; Mic 6; 2 Pet 2; 2 Pet 3

Heb = Hebrews | Jas = James | Oba = Obadiah
Jnh = Jonah | Pet = Peter | Mic = Micah

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 —

SELECTED VERSES FROM JAMES

James 1:5 — “⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 1:17 — “¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

James 4:3 — “³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

James 4:4-5 — “⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?’”

James 4:7 — “⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

James 5:13 — “¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

