



Lytle Light

You Are The Light Of
The World.

– Matthew 5:14a

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

15340 Main Street,
Lytle, TX 78052

PO Box 668,
Lytle, TX 78058
(726) 241-5234

Tom Woodard
(210) 562-0136

Mitch Watkins
(210) 213-8392

lytlechurchofchrist.org

lytlechurchofchrist@yahoo.com

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

bulletin of the CHURCH of CHRIST in Lytle, Texas

Sunday Schedule: 9:45AM – Bible Study | 10:45AM – Worship

12:00PM Fellowship Meal (4th or 5th Sundays)

Wednesday Schedule: 4PM – Bible Study

January 18, 2026

Volume MMXXVI Number 4

GOD'S GRACE: ALWAYS UNMERITED, NOT EVER UNCONDITIONAL

One of the most marvelous themes in all the Bible is the grace of God. Scripture affirms repeatedly that God's grace is undeserved, unearned, and unmerited. Paul declares, [“]⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [“]⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

No one can stand before God and boast that they have obligated the Almighty to usher them into Heaven by his/her own righteousness. As sinners, we stand in need of grace we can never earn (Romans 3:23-24 – [“]²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [“]²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus").

Yet, while God's grace is always unmerited, it is not always unconditional. This is a point often overlooked in modern religious thinking. Some imagine that grace is poured out indiscriminately, without regard to man's or woman's response. But the Bible shows that observing God's conditions (aka rules) are connected with receiving His blessings. Grace remains free – but it must be received on God's terms.

Consider Noah. In Genesis 6:5-7, we read of God's displeasure with mankind with the world's overwhelming wickedness. But as God pronounces judg-

[continued on page 3]

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.

WELCOME VISITOR!

If You're Visiting Today, We Welcome Each & Every One Of You To Our Worship Services! We Hope You Will Stay After Services So We May Become Better Acquainted! And Be Sure To Join Us For Our Bi-Monthly Fellowship Meal After Worship Services, Usually On The 4th or 5th Sunday approximately every other 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 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 So That We May Have A Record Of Your Visit With Us Today. Thank You!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Enter To Worship
- Announcements
- Scripture Reading
- Opening Prayer
- 116 – O, Worship The King
- 291 – Does Jesus Care?
- 39 – Be Not Dismayed
- Minister's Intercessory Prayer
- 61 – Blessed Assurance
- 174 – The Lord's Supper
- Lord's Supper
- Sermon – See Right Column For Outline
- 617 – In Sorrow I Wandered
- Final Announcements
- 389 – Take The Name Of Jesus With You
- Closing Prayer
- Go In Peace, Departing To Serve In Love

SERMON

BIBLICAL FACTS ABOUT AGES

- *SERMON SCRIPTURES*

Ephesians 1:7-10; Acts 7:8-9; Deuteronomy 5:14f; Joshua 3:17; 13:6; Romans 1:1-3; Colossians 2:14; Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:15-17; Exodus 20; James 1:25

- *SERMON OUTLINE*

INTRODUCTION - (1) God's Redemptive Plan For Humanity. (2) Earth's Age (3) Major Divisions Of Time (4) God Involved In Each

I. Patriarchal Age

A. The Span Of Time | B. Head Of Family | C. Animal Sacrifices | D. Gospel In Promise | E. Sabbath Did Not Exist | F. Ended At Cross

II. Mosaic Age

A. The Span Of Time | B. Israelites | C. Animal Sacrifices | D. Gospel In Prophecy | E. Sabbath Existed | F. Nailed To Cross

III. Christian Age

A. The Span Of Time | B. Christian Era | C. Universal System | D. Gospel In Reality | E. Gospel In Place

IV. The Ten Commandments

A. Given On Sinai | B. Law Focus More Literal | C. Under A New Law | D. Old Law Removed

CONCLUSION - (1) Different Laws Cannot Both Rule (2) Jesus Is The Focus (3) The Decision Is Ours To Make

- *INVITATION*

⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

– Romans 1:5-6

WED NIGHT STUDY

TOPIC – Righteousness

2026 FELLOWSHIPS*

• MARCH 7 – Saturday – Picnic On The Grounds

- MAY 31 – Potluck (Ladies' Choice)
- JULY 26 – Potluck (Ladies' Choice)
- SEPTEMBER 27 – Potluck (L.C.)
- NOVEMBER 22 – Thanksgiving Meal
- DECEMBER 27 – New Years “Eve”

* Dates May Be Subtracted Or Other Dates
Added As Our Ladies Decide To Do So.

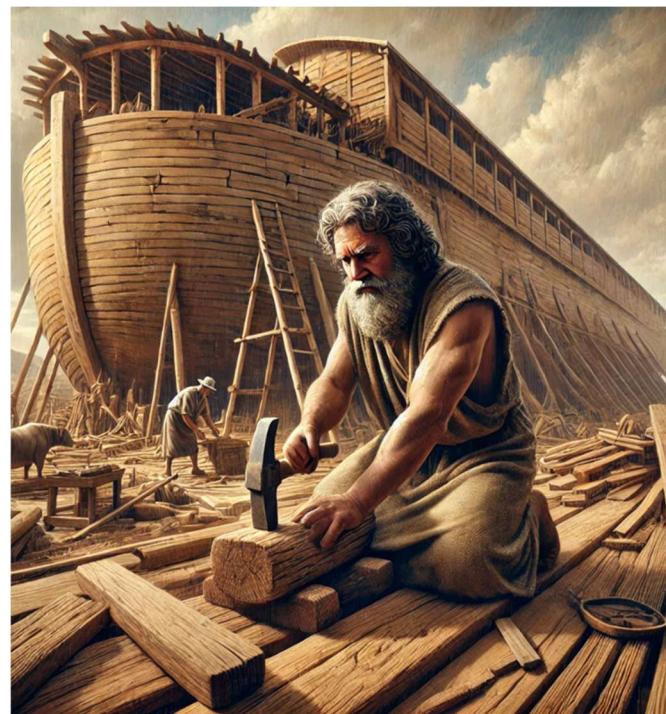
[continued from front]

ment upon the world and prepares to destroy the earth with a flood, we find one of the most encouraging statements in scripture: “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” That grace was clearly undeserved – Noah was not sinless. But he stood in contrast to the people of the world whose “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (6:5). Noah, on the other hand, was a “just [righteous] man, perfect [blameless] in his generations.” (6:9).

Even so, God's gracious provision of salvation through the ark required Noah's obedient response. “²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.” (6:22). Some have concluded that God arbitrarily chose Noah to be saved and chose everyone else to perish. When we examine Scripture more closely, we see a different picture. Noah did not earn God's grace, but his actions before and during the flood positioned him to receive it. In contrast to the wickedness of the world around him, Noah lived differently. He wasn't sinless but he must have been a man of moral integrity – he was upright and without glaring faults, He

stood out from the corruption of his day. Genesis 6:9 states that “Noah walked with God.” This was the true demonstration of Noah's righteousness – Noah was the same as his great grandfather Enoch who also walked with God (Genesis 5:24).

The New Testament presents the same balance. James writes, “He gives more grace,” but immediately adds, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). This is not to say that the humble are earning grace, any more than any of us earn God's grace, but their disposition and actions open the door for God to bestow it more abundantly. This principle appears in 2 Peter 1:2: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” Notice the phrase “be multiplied” –



indicating that God's grace can increase in the life of the believer. Peter then immediately calls Christians to supply diligence, faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, and steadfastness (vv. 5–7). As we grow in these qualities, we enjoy God's grace in fuller measure.

[continued on page 6]



Father, Please Hear Our Prayer

CURRENT CONCERNS

- May The Will Of GOD, The FATHER Of LOVE, HOPE, COMPASSION, GRACE, MERCY, And RIGHTEOUSNESS Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven!
- *People In The U.S.A. And Around The World Who've Been Affected By Natural Disasters*
- Our Local, State & Federal Government Officials, Military, First Responders & Teachers Nourishing & Life-giving Rain
- Coronaviruses, Flues & Other Deadly Sickesses
- Civil Unrest, Racial Strife & Mass Shootings
- War, Unrest & Lack Of Peace In Other Countries
- Additional People/Situations For Which To Pray :

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

All Following entries Are By Date Order And Are Alphabetical By Last Name. A Superscripted Number In Brackets, I.E., ^[1], At The End Of An Entry Denotes How Many Weeks The Entry Has Been In The Bulletin.

JANUARY 18

- ◊ Baily, Linzi [Ronda's niece] - She was supposed to have surgery on Tuesday, January 13. Unfortunately, the surgery could not be completed, so she'll have to endure 3 months of chemo and then have surgery to remove the (hopefully) shrunken tumor on her liver. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Moore, Perry [Melanie McMeans' brother] - He was sent home with home health care Monday, January 5, after his time in the hospital due to stroke. ^[NEW]
- ◊ PT Completed - Ronda Spicer & Carlene Vierling have finished, *Praise To GOD!* ^[NEW]
- ◊ Renninger, Ruane - She had several tests to clear her for a back surgery she's scheduled to have on February 4 - she passed all of them but will probably have a few more before the surgery. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Smoot, Deborah - She's been having some bad days with excessive coughing and sinus drainage. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Sparks, Tim [Tom Woodard's son-in-law] - After tests, doctors have discovered that he has issues with his esophagus not expanding correctly. He may have to have surgery to correct this issue. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Strunk, Billy - He's been feeling poorly off and on lately. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Villereal, Douglas [Melanie McMeans' brother-in-law] - Doug (71) has lost a great deal of weight and is very weak due to the chemotherapy treatments for his stage 4 prostate cancer which has metastasized to several areas of his body. ^[NEW]

◊ Woodard, Pat - She's finally feeling better after her bout with "punyng." [NEW]

JANUARY 11

◊ Bridgewater, Larry [Watkins' brother-in-law] - He's still dealing with the aftermath of the amputation of his left leg at just below the knee. [01]

◊ Brown Family (Colton, Abby, Phoenix & Atraes) - Prayers [01]

◊ Cashion, Corena - Continued concerns due to her cancer. [01]

◊ Sims, Linda [Pam Flatequal's friend] - She is having health issues - low count of red blood cells and pain. Doctors will perform a bone marrow test to help determine cause. [01]

◊ Smoot, Bailey [Smoot's granddaughter] - She was headed back to Kono, Hawaii to regroup with her missionary team, then on to South Africa where she will be a team lead this go around. [01]

◊ White, Linda [Melanie McMeans' sister] - **Praise To GOD!**, she will not have to have her gall bladder removed and she doesn't have pneumonia as suspected. She has had severe vertigo which doctors suspect is caused by the ear infection. [01]

JANUARY 4

◊ Last Name Unknown, Missy [Pam Flatequal's friend] - Besides her brain cancer having recurred, she had to be hospitalized with fluid on her brain. [02]

◊ Moore, Jennifer [Melanie McMeans' niece] - She is with child but it could be a risky pregnancy because she lost her last baby to a miscarriage. [02]

◊ Sparks, Lane & Ashley [Tom's grandson and granddaughter-in-law] - Ashley is pregnant with what will be Tom Woodard's 15th great grandchild! She had issues during her last

pregnancy so we're praying for a noneventful gestation. [02]

DECEMBER 28

◊ Bridgewater, Becky & Larry [Mitchell Watkins' sister & brother-in-law] - Their life has been infected with much chaos lately. [03]

◊ Dygert, Harold [Melanie McMeans' uncle] - He suffered a stroke and has plans to live with his daughter once he's out of the hospital. [03]

◊ Homburg Family [Norm Homburg is a fellow barbershopper of Mitch Watkins] - Norm's wife, Jimmie, passed into eternity from an infection incurred after a surgery. [03]

◊ McMeans, Wendell - He had his initial interview with Goodwill and felt all went well. He should have heard something this past week on whether he'll move forward in the interview process. [03]

ONGOING CONCERNS

All Ongoing Concern(s) Below Will Remain For 20 Weeks. Removal Can Be Requested Earlier But Concern(s) Will Automatically Be Removed At The 21ST Week. If Someone Is Moved Off This Ongoing List And You Believe They Should Go Back On The Detailed List Above, Please Let Mitch Know.

Alderman, Kelly [11]; Alderman, Roy [08]; Andrews, Dale [12]; Balderrama, Matthew [05]; Bradley Family [06]; Brown, Diane Family [10]; Brown, Jane [17]; Burris, Joyce [14]; Carter, Emily Family [04]; Cashion, Corina [12]; Clendenning, Carol [18]; Coughran, Brett [17]; Duncan, Roberta [05]; Fintel, Rick [06]; Flatequal Family [06]; Flores, Carlos [06]; Gabehart, Tom [12]; Garay, Mary [15]; Gardner, Jim [19]; Gardner, Laura [20]; Gingerella, Ed [10]; Gonzalez, Joel [10];

[continued on page 6]

[continued from page 5]

Guzman, Emily ^[20]; Jackson, April ^[17]; Johansen, Charles ^[20]; Keesee, Robert ^[17]; Lassen, Peter ^[11]; Lester, Bob ^[10]; Lett, Dale ^[20]; McMicken-Glaze, Ashley Family ^[11]; McMeans, Wendell ^[10]; Moore, Michael ^[17]; Moore, Sherry ^[05]; Mr. Lowe ^[05]; Persat, Diana ^[10]; Price, Dylan ^[20]; Price, Jennifer ^[04]; Rasmussen, Linda ^[11]; Renninger, Ruane's granddaughter-in-law ^[04]; Roeder, Gayle ^[20]; Schilling, Gene ^[12]; Sisters of Oliver Flores ^[17]; Smith, Betty ^[10]; Smith, Jimmie (JD) ^[07]; Smoot, Bailey ^[12]; Smoot, Cody & Emily ^[06]; Smoot, Roger ^[14]; Smoot, Tiffany ^[09]; Spicer, Ronda ^[10]; Street, Cris ^[08]; Unknown Last Name, Katheryn ^[13]; Vierling, Gene ^[14]; Vierling, Scott ^[10]; Wade, John ^[20]; Walker, Tony Family ^[10]; Watkins, Mitchell ^[06]; Weisel, Michelle ^[06]

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Noah's obedience was prompted by his faith: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark, for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7). Noah not only lived righteously, but he also preached righteousness; he is even described as "a preacher of righteousness." (2 Peter 2:5). Based on Genesis 6:3, he had 120 years to proclaim God's warning while the ark was being prepared. God's grace was available to all, but only Noah and his family were willing to heed the message.

How does this apply to us today? Just as Noah found grace, so can we. When we turn from sin and turn toward God, we discover the very same blessing: "grace in the eyes of the Lord." Peter draws a powerful comparison between Noah's salvation and

SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

GENESIS 6:22

²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

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

ours: "who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:20-21).

Just as God used water to save Noah from a sinful world, today through God's grace, He uses the waters of baptism to bring us into a new life through the blood of Jesus! Noah's story is one of grace offered, faith displayed, and obedience rewarded. The same God who saved Noah is still offering grace to all who will listen, believe, and obey.

We must therefore avoid two extremes: (1) Thinking we can earn God's grace - we cannot and (2) Assuming God always gives grace without conditions - He does not. Yes, grace remains the free gift of a loving God, but it is a gift received through humble obedience by faith (Hebrews 5:9). **END**

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Joey & Gaylia Dzielzanowski	Dec 29	Anniversary
Dan Orr	Jan 11	Birthday
Billy Strunk	Jan 26	Birthday
Jim Gardner	Jan 30	Birthday
Rick Fintel	Feb 16	Birthday
Mitch & Betsy Watkins	Feb 22	Anniversary
Pam Flatequal	Feb 22	Birthday



If Your Special Day Is Between Today And February 28th And You Do Not See
Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Watkins Know!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

----- Church Stuff ----- Church Stuff ----- Church Stuff -----		
Generally - 4 th Or 5 th Sun, Every Other Sun	Table Fellowship Potluck Lunch - Approximately Noon To Two	
Every Thursday	Sewing Sisters (ALL Ladies Welcome!) - Meet In The Fellowship Room From Noon To 2 For Fellowship And To Sew/Craft Stuff For The Needy And Elderly	
Sun - Jan 18	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>How Jesus Endured</i>	see searchtv.org for local time and channel
Sun - Jan 25	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>Do Not Grow Weary</i>	
Sun - Feb 1	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>You Can Trust Scripture</i>	
Sun - Feb 8	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>God Is Faithful</i>	
----- Non-Church Stuff ----- Non-Church Stuff ----- Non-Church Stuff -----		
Every Tue	Lytle Friendship Art Club - Meets In The Fellowship Room At 9:30AM	
Every 3 RD Mon	VFW Auxiliary - Fellowship Room At 6:30PM	
Sun - Jan 18	National ¹ Thesaurus & ² Peking Duck & ³ Gourmet Coffee Day	
Mon - Jan 19	National ¹ Tin Can And ² Popcorn Days	
Tue - Jan 20	MLK Jr. & Civil Rights Day & Elementary School Teacher Day & National ¹ Buttercrunch And ² Cheese Lovers Days	
Wed - Jan 21	Grandma Day & International Sweat Pants Day & New England Clam Chowder Day & National ¹ Granola Bar And ² Hugging Days	
Thu - Jan 22	Grandpa Day & National ¹ Blonde Brownie And ² Hot Sauce Days	
Fri - Jan 23	John Hancock's 289 th Birthday & National ¹ Handwriting And ² Pie/ Rhubarb Pie Days	
Sat - Jan 24	International Day Of Education & National ¹ Compliment And ² Peanut Butter Days	
Sun - Jan 25	National ¹ Fish Taco And ² Irish Coffee Days & A Room Of One's Own Day & Observe The Weather 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 —



OLD & NEW IN 365 —

Daily Readings From Both The Old And New Testaments

SUN — Day 22 - Exo 1-3; Mat 15:21-39

MON — Day 23 - Exo 4-6; Mat 16

TUE — Day 24 - Exo 7-8; Mat 17

WED — Day 25 - Exo 9-10; Mat 18:1-20

THU — Day 26 - Exo 11-12; Mat 18:21-35

FRI — Day 27 - Exo 13-15; Mat 19:1-15

SAT — Day 28 - Exo 16-18; Mat 19:16-30

Exo = Exodus | Mat = Matthew

WANT TO BE

Part Of This Local Family Of Christ Jesus?

To be identified with our Congregation (aka “place membership”): Please 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.

TOM'S DAILY Bible Reading

Sunday	01/18/26	Matthew 15
Monday	01/19/26	Matthew 16
Tuesday	01/20/26	Matthew 17
Wednesday	01/21/26	Matthew 18
Thursday	01/22/26	Matthew 19
Friday	01/23/26	Matthew 20
Saturday	01/24/26	Matthew 21

MEMORIZE Scripture —

Scripture Verses About Sin

Luke 11:27-28 — ²⁷ And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!” ²⁸ But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

James 2:18-20 — ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

1 John 5:3 — ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.