

# 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 3, 2023** Number 49

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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email	—	lytlechurchofchrist@yahoo.com
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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.*

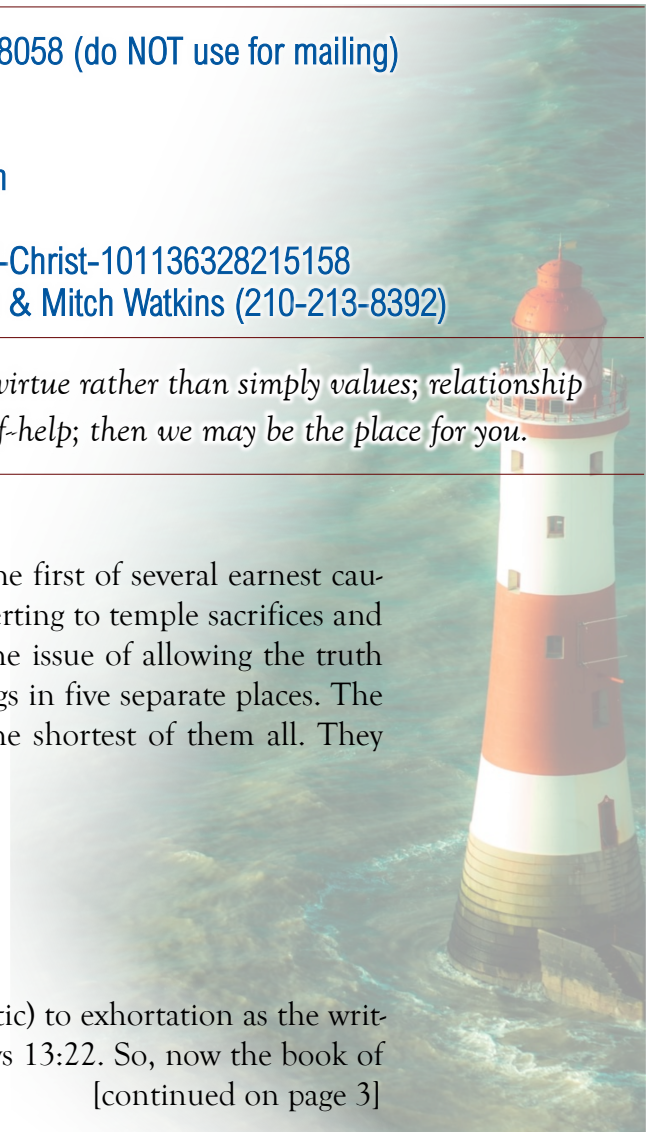
## COMMENTS ON HEBREWS 2:2

Our Scripture Word Search of Hebrews 2:1-4 gives us the first of several earnest cautions because the people of a Hebrew background were reverting to temple sacrifices and other practices of Judaism. The entire book warns about the issue of allowing the truth of New Testament truth to slip away. There are five warnings in five separate places. The first warning found in the verses under consideration is the shortest of them all. They are:

- First Warning: Hebrews 2:1-5
- Second Warning: Hebrews 3:7-4:13
- Third Warning: Hebrews 6:4-8
- Fourth Warning: Hebrews 10:26-39
- Fifth Warning: Hebrews 12:25-29

These first four verses make a shift from teaching (didactic) to exhortation as the writer – who includes himself in these verses – states in Hebrews 13:22. So, now the book of

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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. 664—O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Not In Song Book—O Holy Night!

- MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER •

Song No. 39—Be Not Dismayed What'er Betide  
Psalm 19:1-14

Not In Song Book—Come, Share The Lord



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

Invitation Song No. 187—In Heavenly Love Abiding

- FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 429—God Be With You

**PRAYER: OFFERING & CLOSING**

- DEPART TO SERVE IN LOVE •

## SERMON

— THE MUSTARD SEED —

- *SCRIPTURE REFERENCES* •

Matthew 13:31-32; Daniel 2:35b,44; Acts 4:4; Acts 21:20;  
1 Peter 1:23-25; Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:33;  
John 15:4-5; John 15:8; John 3:3-5

- *SERMON OUTLINE* •

- I. The Mustard Seed
  - (A) The Plant Itself
  - (B) Used Proverbially
- II. The Meaning Of The Parable
  - (A) The Kingdom Would Start Small
  - (B) It Would Be Large
  - (C) Would Benefit The World
- III. The Kingdom Growth Today
  - (A) The "Mathematical Possibility"
    - (1) The Example
    - (2) The Growth Would Be Like A Mustard Seed!
      - (i) End Of Year 1 - 40
      - (ii) End Of Year 5 - 640
      - (iii) End Of Year 10 - 20,480
      - (iv) End Of Year 15 - 655,360
      - (v) End Of Year 20 - 20,971,520
      - (vi) End Of Year 25 - 1,342,177,280
  - (B) It Is Possible
  - (C) What Is Needed

*CONCLUSION — GOD Provides The Salvation And "The Parable Of The Mustard Seed" Serves Us!*

- *INVITATION* •

## WED NIGHT STUDY

**DECEMBER 6 @ 5:00 PM In Fellowship Hall**

Please Join Us When Possible! (Use Rear Doors)

— *1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-5:3* —



— 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]

Hebrews turns to its intended audience – it will NOT allow the truth to remain unexamined in the believer's life.

For the purpose of this article, I'd like to concentrate on verse two of chapter two of Hebrews.

We start off with these words: "For if [and it is true] the word spoken through angels..." The "if" here indicates that the word spoken through angels was true; it can be counted upon. When they as its agents revealed Scripture, it was the authoritative and accurate revelation from God's viewpoint. The "word spoken through angels" was when God gave the Law at Sinai (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19). God gave the Law to the Israelites in order to define the conditions of blessings obtained from obedience and curses for disobedience.

The next part of verse two says, "... proved steadfast [binding]..." The word "steadfast" throughout the book of Hebrews expresses something that is sure; it is certain. In biblical par-

lance, truth is something that is fixed (Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:19; 9:17). So, the word "steadfast" means binding or firm; God's word is unyielding. The word that God revealed through His angels was binding – that is, legally valid. And His word has eternal validity; He does not change that which He has revealed. When God our Father speaks, it is ALWAYS legally valid. Revelation in the Old Testament was binding in the sense that it's unchangeable because the revelation was spoken by God Himself.

Verse 2c tells us, "... and every transgression and disobedience..." These two words, "transgressions" and "disobedience" refer to complete disregard of God's revelation. "Transgression" means to violate a clear standard of Scripture. It carries the idea of stepping over the "line drawn in the sand." The word "disobedience" means to refuse to take to heart what God has said: it is to neglect to do what the Law required. Both of these terms are explicit REJECTION of God's will as revealed in His word.

2d states, "... received a just reward [retribution, penalty]..." The Law under Moses prescribed a penalty for those who violated or transgressed It. I'm not sure that the "just" retribution refers to salvation of the soul; it seems to point more toward the loss of blessing for the nation of Israel. "Reward" or retribution or penalty seems to relate to the loss of inheritance. We know that God NEVER takes sin lightly; He always specifies the appropriate action for any infringement of His word. Since the first chapter of Hebrews argues for the deliverance that Jesus provides, it seems at least possible that some believers will lose part of all of their inheritance. We know that Hebrews was written to believers as evidenced by the following Scripture:

- "Holy Brothers" (3:1)
- "Brethren" (3:1, 12)
- "Share [partake] in the heavenly calling" (3:1)
- "God's house" (3:6)
- "Share in Christ" (3:14)
- "Ought to be teachers (5:12)
- "Tasted of the heavenly gift" (6:4)

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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. <sup>[3]</sup>

- ◇ *Boldt, Sandy* [Schoolmate of Roger & Deborah Smoot] — She is fighting cancer — her whole body is riddled which has necessitated several surgeries with more required. <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◇ *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. <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◇ *Last-Name-Unknown, Nancy* [Strunks' Neighbor] — She's been diagnosed with a brain tumor. <sup>[3]</sup>
- ◇ *Lloyd, Linda* — She was released from the hospital after her heart ablation Wednesday night, November 1 and is now at home. <sup>[3]</sup>

## NOVEMBER 5

- ◇ *Davis Family* [Mitch Watkins' best friend from the Navy] — His mother passed into eternity Wednesday a week ago. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ *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. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ *Moore, Michael & Michelle* [Tom Woodard's son-in-law & daughter] — November 1st was the 10th anniversary of Joshua's passing. <sup>[4]</sup>
- ◇ *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. <sup>[4]</sup>

## 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. <sup>[5]</sup>

## OCTOBER 22

- ◇ *Brock Family* [Isaac Brock, Pat Woodard's great nephew] — He passed into eternity. He committed suicide — special prayers for the family, please. <sup>[6]</sup>
- ◇ *Watkins, Betsy* — She's doing better, *Praise GOD!* She's still having issues with retaining fluids but her cardiologist is waiting to see how efficacious the new diuretic she was put on in the hospital is doing before making any adjustments. <sup>[6]</sup>
- ◇ *Woodard, Pat* — Her leg is healing slowly, but it is healing from her surgery to remove the melanomas. <sup>[6]</sup>
- ◇ *Woodard, Tom* — *Praise GOD!* He received a good report on his knee from his orthopedic surgeon and doesn't have to return for a follow up for two years! <sup>[6]</sup>

## OCTOBER 15

- ◇ *Noble Family* [David, San Pedro CoC members] — David passed into eternity after his battle with pancreatic cancer. <sup>[7]</sup>
- ◇ *Smith, Betty* — She's been feeling fairly poorly, off and on, as of late. <sup>[7]</sup>

## OCTOBER 8 & OLDER

*Barron, Pat* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Brown, Scott* <sup>[8]</sup>; *Brock, Jim* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Bucheit Family* <sup>[9]</sup>; *Clemetson, Allie* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Cook, Daisy* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Davis Family* <sup>[9]</sup>; *Farris Family* <sup>[14]</sup>; *Haass Family* <sup>[17]</sup>; *Halverson Family* <sup>[9]</sup>; *Hoover, Herb* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Lester, Kathy* <sup>[18]</sup>; *Mays, Alice* <sup>[8]</sup>; *Orr, Myrna* <sup>[17]</sup>; *Orr & Burris Families* <sup>[12]</sup>; *Parra, Rudy* <sup>[9]</sup>; *Renninger, Ruane* <sup>[14]</sup>; *Shelton, Judy* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Slaughter, Ron* <sup>[8]</sup>; *Smith, Philip* <sup>[15]</sup>; *Smith, Zachary* <sup>[9]</sup>; *Sparks, Janice* <sup>[17]</sup>; *Spicer, Ronda* <sup>[12]</sup>; *Stroud, Brenna & Derrick* <sup>[14]</sup>; *Stroud, Faith* <sup>[14]</sup>; *Vierling, Carlene* <sup>[17]</sup>; *Vierling, Carol* <sup>[12]</sup>; *Villarreal, Nick* <sup>[12]</sup>



## RELIABLE

As members of the local church, we are sheep who make up the flock (Acts 20:28). We are at the same time servants of Christ (Acts 4:29). We must ask ourselves, “Can the Lord depend on me?” Can He depend on me to be present at feeding time (every service and Bible class)? Can He depend on me to stand up for His truth when it is under attack? Can He depend on me to give as He has made me prosper?” Remember that it was Jesus who asked, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46). He is relying on all of us to be about His business.

Remember that David described himself and his fellow Israelites as “... his people, the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100:3). In other words, they belonged to God and were to serve according to the pleasure of His will. The people in Ezra 5:11 identified themselves as “...the servants of the God of heaven and earth...” (Ezra 5:11). They were determined not to let anyone or anything stop them from finishing their God-appointed tasks in rebuilding the Temple.

Jesus used the analogy of sheep to represent his disciples. He said that His sheep (followers) would hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:3, 16, 27). Later, when Peter answered the council’s command for the apostles to stop preaching in the name of Jesus, he said, “... Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? ... (Acts 4:19-20). Peter was determined to follow the instructions of the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

It is probably sound advice that, when a car leaves you stranded, you should return the favor. Few people would keep a car that cannot be depended upon to work as needed. There may be a parable here. **E**

[continued from page 3]

- “Shared in the Holy Spirit: (6:4)
- “Shared the Holy Spirit” (6:4)
- “Sanctified” (10:10, 29)
- “Matured” (10:14)

So, it seems that it is possible to lose the re-

ward of our inheritance but the “reward” or retribution or penalty in this passage may not be talking about loss of salvation but loss of inheritance, but only if “salvation” and “inheritance” mean two different things. There are indications that a believer cannot lose their salvation (John 10:28-29; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5), just as there are indications that the believer CAN lose that salvation (John 15:5-6; Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:19-39; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; ). I will admit that I am not smart enough to reconcile this particular (human) conundrum; instead I will rely on God’s grace and the blood of Jesus and my own obedience to ensure I make it to heaven! How about you? **E**

## SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

### HEBREWS 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup> For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. <sup>4</sup> God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

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

# 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><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</b> (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 10	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>Miraculous Gifts Today</i> —</b> for channel: <a href="http://searchtv.com">searchtv.com</a></p>
Sun—Dec 17	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>When The Heart Breaks</i> —</b> for channel: <a href="http://searchtv.com">searchtv.com</a></p>
Sun—Dec 24	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>With Christ</i> —</b> for channel: <a href="http://searchtv.com">searchtv.com</a></p>
Sun—Dec 31	 <p><b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>A Good Conscience</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—Dec 3	National Apple Pie & Green Bean Casserole & Peppermint Latte Days
Tue—Dec 5	International Volunteer Day   National Comfort Food Day
Wed—Dec 6	National Gazpacho Day   St Nicholas Day   National Cook Ahead For Christmas Day
Fri—Dec 8	National Brownie Day   National Christmas Tree Day
Sat—Dec 9	National Pastry Day   Gingerbread Decorating Day   National Llama Day
Sun—Dec 10	Nobel Prize Day   Worldwide Candle Lighting 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](http://video.wvbs.org/spotlight)

## DAILY Bible Reading —



### Immersive — Through OT Once & NT 3 Times

SUN	Hos 10; Hos 11; Titus 3; Phil 1
MON	Hos 12; Hos 13; Heb 1; Heb 2
TUE	Hos 14; Joel 1; Heb 3; Heb 4
WED	Joel 2; Joel 3; Heb 5; Heb 6
THU	Amos 1; Amos 2; Heb 7; Heb 8
FRI	Amos 3; Amos 4; Heb 9; Heb 10
SAT	Amos 5; Amos 6; Heb 11; Heb 12

Hos = Hosea | Phil = Philemon | Heb = Hebrews

## 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 HEBREWS

**Hebrews 10:1-7** — <sup>1</sup> The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. <sup>3</sup> But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. <sup>4</sup> It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, my God.’”

**Hebrews 11:1-3** — <sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

