

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

**Call to Worship**  
**Psalm 2:10-12**

**Psalm 2:10-12** Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

# The Solid Rock

## Hymn 92



# Sweet Hour of Prayer

## Hymn 439





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Cor. 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“If you will not have death unto sin, you shall have sin unto death. There is no alternative. If you do not die to sin, you shall die for sin. If you do not slay sin, sin will slay you.”*

**CHARLES SPURGEON**

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is mostly out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# **Today's Message**

**“Awake!”**

**Scripture text: Ephesians 5:1-21**

**Ephesians 5:11-16** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them.** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**" Look **carefully then how you walk**, not as unwise but as **wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.**

When you think of light, you **think of waking up to a new day**, and Paul presented this picture (Eph. 5:14), paraphrasing Isaiah 60:1. You have the same image in Romans 13:11–13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1–10. That Easter morning, when Christ arose from the dead, was the dawning of a new day for the world.

**Christians are not sleeping in sin and death. We have been raised from the dead through faith in Him.** The darkness of the graveyard is past, and we are now walking **in the light of salvation**. Salvation is the beginning of a new day, **and we ought to live as those who belong to the light, not to the darkness.**

“Lazarus, come forth!”

**John 5:24-29** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

**Luke 1:78-79** because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

**Isaiah 26:19** Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, **awake and sing for joy!** For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

**Isaiah 60: 1** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**Romans 13:10-14** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law.** Besides this you know the time, that **the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.** For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. **The night is far gone; the day is at hand.** So then let us cast off the works of darkness and **put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime,** not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

**The believer has no business in the darkness.** He is a saint, which means **he is a partaker “of the inheritance of the saints in light”** (Col. 1:12). He is a king, because he **has been delivered** “from the power of darkness” and has been translated “into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Col. 1:13). He is “light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8).

**Colossians 1:12-13** giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the **saints in light.** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us **to the kingdom of his beloved Son,**

**Ephesians 5:14-15** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "**Awake, O sleeper,** and arise from the dead, and **Christ will shine on you.**" **Look carefully then how you walk,** not as unwise but as wise,

Ephesians 5:14–15 are related. Paul appeared to be saying, "**Don't walk in your sleep! Wake up! Open your eyes! Make the most of the day!**" It is sad to see many professed Christians "drift" through life, **like sleepwalkers**, who never really make the most of opportunities to live for Christ and serve Him. Paul presented several reasons why we should be accurate and careful in our walk.

**It is a mark of wisdom (v. 15).** Only a fool drifts with the wind and tide. **A wise man marks out his course,** sets his sails, and guides the rudder until he reaches his destination. When a man wants to build a house, he first draws his plans so he knows what he is doing. Yet, **how many Christians plan their days so that they use their opportunities wisely?** True, we cannot know what a day may bring forth (James 4:13–17). **But it is also true that a planned life can better deal with unexpected events.** Someone said, **“When the pilot, does not know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.”**

**Life is short (v. 16a).**

**“Buying up the opportunity—taking advantage of it.”** An old Chinese adage says, “Opportunity has a forelock so you can seize it when you meet it. Once it is past, you cannot seize it again.” Our English word opportunity comes from the Latin and means **“toward the port.”** It suggests a ship taking advantage of the wind and tide to arrive safely in the harbor. **The brevity of life is a strong argument for making the best use of the opportunities God gives us.**

**The days are evil (v. 16b).**

In Paul's time, this meant that Roman persecution was on the way (1 Peter 4:12–19).

**How foolish to waste opportunities to win the lost when soon those opportunities might be taken away by the advances of sin in society!**

If the days were evil when Paul wrote this letter, **what must be their condition today?**

**1 Peter 4:12-18** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you **to test you**, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, **you are blessed**, because the **Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you**. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but **let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God**; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

**God has given us a mind (v. 17a). “Understanding”** suggests using our minds to discover and do the will of God. **Too many Christians have the idea that discovering God’s will is a mystical experience that rules out clear thinking.** But this idea is wrong—and dangerous. We discover the will of God as He transforms the mind (Rom. 12:1–2); and **this transformation is the result of the Word of God, prayer, meditation, and worship.** If God gave you a mind, then **He expects you to use it.** This means that **learning His will involves gathering facts, examining them, weighing them, and praying for His wisdom** (James 1:5). God does not want us simply to know His will; **He wants us to understand His will.**

**Romans 12:1-2** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**James 1:4-5** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask God**, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

**God has a plan for our lives (v. 17b).**

Paul alluded to this plan (Eph. 2:10). **If God saved me, He has a purpose for my life, and I should discover that purpose and then guide my life accordingly.** He reveals His plan through His Word (Col. 1:9–10), His Spirit in our hearts (Col. 3:15), and the working of circumstances (Rom. 8:28).

**The Christian can walk carefully and accurately because he knows what God wants him to do.** Like the builder following the blueprint, he accomplishes what the architect planned.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

**Colossians 1:9-10** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, **asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to him, **bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.**

**Colossians 3:12-15** Put on then, as **God's chosen ones**, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.** And be thankful.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

**When our home is ruled according to God's Word,"** said Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "angels might be asked to stay with us, and they would not find themselves out of their element."

What is your home ruled by and what would angels think if they were asked to stay there?

# Holy Communion



# **The Family of God**

**I'm so glad to be part of the family of God**

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by  
His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod**

**For I'm part of the family, the family of God.**