

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 'Call to Worship' and 'Psalm 47' is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, black font.

Call to Worship

Psalm 47

Psalm 47 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. **Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!** For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

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

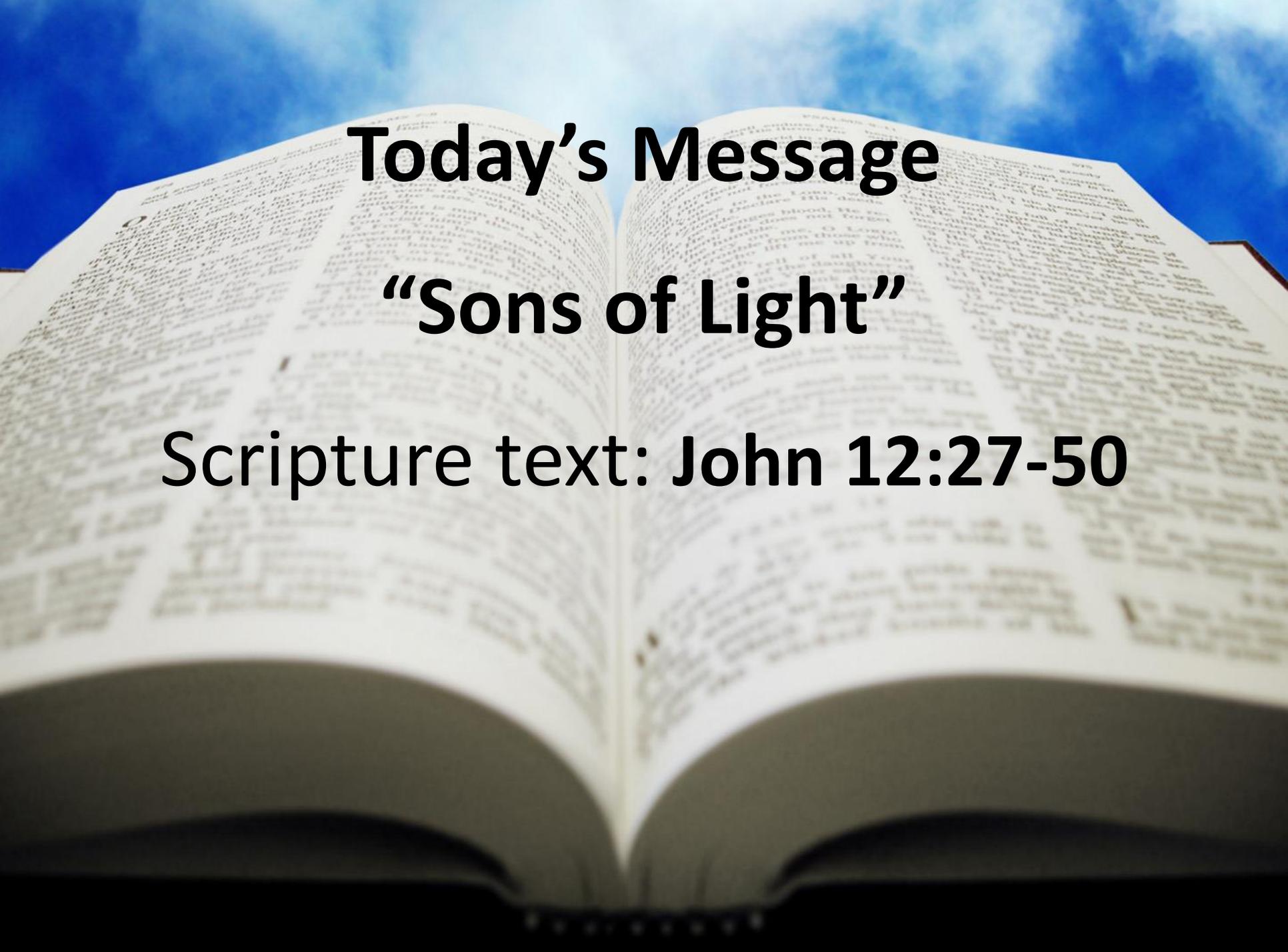


2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will stake his life on his belief.”

T. S. ELIOT

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“Sons of Light”

Scripture text: John 12:27-50

The central theme of this message is **the glory of God** (*John 12:28 Father, glorify your name.* " Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.").

We would have expected Jesus to say, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be crucified." But **Jesus saw beyond the cross to the glory that would follow.**

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and **enter into his glory?**"

Hebrews 12:1-4 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Jesus used **the image of a seed** to illustrate the great spiritual truth that **there can be no glory without suffering, no fruitful life without death, no victory without surrender.** Of itself, a seed is weak and useless; but when it is planted, it “dies” and becomes fruitful. There is both beauty and bounty when a seed “dies” and **fulfills its purpose.** If a seed could talk, it would no doubt complain about being put into the cold, dark earth. **But the only way it can achieve its goal is by being planted.**

God's children are like seeds. They are small and insignificant, but **they have life in them, God's life.** However, that life can never be fulfilled **unless we yield ourselves to God and permit Him to "plant us."** **We must die to self so that we may live unto God** (Rom. 6; Gal. 2:20). The only way to have a fruitful life is to follow Jesus Christ in death, burial, and resurrection.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.** And the life I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave himself for me.

In these words, **Jesus challenges us today to surrender our lives to Him.** Note the contrasts: loneliness or fruitfulness; losing your life or keeping your life; serving self or **serving Christ**; pleasing self or **receiving God's honor.**

I read about some Christians who visited a remote mission station to see how the ministry was going. As they watched the dedicated missionary team at work, they were impressed with their ministry, but admitted that they missed "civilization." "You certainly have buried yourself out here!" one of the visitors exclaimed. **"We haven't buried ourselves," the missionary replied. "We were planted!"**

Our Lord knew that He was facing suffering and death, and His humanity responded to this ordeal. His soul was troubled, not because He was questioning the Father's will, but because He was fully conscious of all that the Cross involved.

Note that Jesus did not say, "What shall I do?" because He knew what He was ordained to do. He said, "**What shall I say?**" In the hour of suffering and surrender, there are **only two prayers we can pray**, either "Father, save me!" or "**Father, glorify Thy name!**"

How would you response to the statement, “**God does not expect us to be comfortable, but He does expect us to be conformable.**” Would you argue the point over the phone? like in this example ...

“Conformable to what?” a voice thundered.

“Haven’t you read **Romans 12:2**—‘Be not conformed to this world’?”

“Sure I’ve read Romans 12:2,” I replied. “Have you read **Romans 8:29? God has predestined us ‘to be conformed to the image of His Son.’**”

After a long pause, as pages were being turned ... he grunted and said, “OK.”

Comfortable or conformable: that is the question.

If we are looking for comfortable lives, then we will protect our plans and desires, save our lives, and never be planted. (the, it's all about me attitude)

But if we yield our lives and let God plant us, we will never be alone but will have the joy of being fruitful **to the glory of God.** "If any man [Jew or Greek] serve Me, let him **follow Me.**" This is the equivalent of.

Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and **whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Mark 8:36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

The prayer, “**Father, glorify Thy name!**” received a reply from heaven! God the Father spoke to His Son and gave Him a **double assurance**: the Son’s past life and ministry had glorified the Father, and the Son’s future suffering and death would glorify the Father. It is significant that the Father spoke to the Son at the beginning of the Son’s ministry (Matt. 3:17), as the Son began His journey to Jerusalem (Matt. 17:5), and now as the Son entered the last days before the Cross.

God always gives that word of assurance to those who willingly suffer for His sake.

Matthew 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

Matthew 17:5-7 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**" When the disciples heard this, **they fell on their faces and were terrified.** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "**Rise, and have no fear.**"

The people heard a sound but did not know the message that had been conveyed. Yet if the voice was for their sakes and they could not understand it, what good was it? In that **the voice assured Jesus**, who was to die for their sakes, **the voice was for their good. They heard Him pray and they heard a sound from heaven in response to that prayer. That should have convinced them that Jesus was in touch with the Father.** We might translate John 12:30, “That voice came more for your sake than for Mine.”

Jesus then openly spoke about the Cross. **It was an hour of judgment for the world and for Satan, the prince of the world.** The death of Jesus Christ would seem like a victory for the wicked world, but **it would really be a judgment of the world.** On the cross, Jesus would defeat Satan and his world system (Gal. 6:14). Even though he is permitted to go to and fro on the earth, **Satan is a defeated enemy.**

As we serve the Lord, we overcome the wicked one (Luke 10:17–19). One day Satan shall be cast out of heaven (Rev. 12:10), and **eventually he will be judged and imprisoned forever** (Rev. 20:10).

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Luke 10:17-20 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**"

John 12:32 And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw **all people** to myself."

The phrase "all men" does not suggest universal salvation. It means "**all people without distinction,**" that is, Jews and Gentiles. He does not force them; **He draws** them (see John 6:44–45). He was "lifted up" that men might find the way (John 12:32), know the truth (John 8:28), and receive the life (John 3:14). The cross reminds us that God loves a whole world and that **the task of the church is to take the Gospel to the whole world.**

We have met the phrase “**lifted up**” before.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **so must the Son of Man be lifted up,**

John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, “**When you have lifted up the Son of Man,** then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

Its basic meaning is crucifixion (note John 12:33), but it also **carries the idea of glorification.**

Isaiah 52:13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely; **he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.**

The Son of man was glorified by being crucified!

The **people did not understand** what He was teaching. They knew that “Son of man” was a title for Messiah, but **they could not understand why Messiah would be crucified!** Did not the Old Testament teach that the Messiah would live forever?

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end**, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness **from this time forth and forevermore**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 72:17 May his name **endure forever**, his fame continue **as long as the sun!** May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

Psalm 89:36 His offspring **shall endure forever**, his throne **as long as the sun before me.**

Psalm 110:4 -6 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "**You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**" The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. **He will execute judgment among the nations**, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

But that was no time to be discussing the fine points of theology! **It was an hour of crisis** (*John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*, where the Greek word krisis means judgment) and an hour of opportunity.

The light was shining and they had better take advantage of their opportunity to be saved! We have met this image of light and darkness before.

By a simple step of faith, these people could have passed out of spiritual darkness and into the light of salvation.

John 1:4-13 In him was life, and the life was the **light of men**. The **light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, **to bear witness about the light**, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to **bear witness about the light**. **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world**. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God**.

John 3:17-21 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world **might be saved** through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the **light has come into the world**, and people loved the darkness **rather than the light because their works were evil**. For everyone who does wicked things **hates the light** and does not come to the **light**, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does **what is true comes to the light**, so that it may be **clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.**"

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:39-41 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, **that those who do not see may see**, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "**If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.**"

Proverb 1:22-27 How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, **I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.** Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have **ignored all my counsel** and would have none of **my reproof**, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you **like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind**, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Proverb 1:28-33 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. **Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,** would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, **therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.** For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but **whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."**

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 For the mystery of lawlessness **is already at work**. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and **false signs and wonders**, and with all **wicked deception** for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. Therefore God sends them a **strong delusion**, so that they may **believe what is false**, in order that all may be condemned **who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness**.

Ephesians 5:4-11 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, **which are out of place**, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), **has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience**. Therefore do not become partners with them; for **at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and **try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

Public schools are destroying the faith of Christian children.

- Legislation is introduced to remove the rights of parents.
- Children are taught they came from apes.
- Millions of children are "medicated" to control their behavior.

...and I, will no longer be silent

Gambling is promoted to pay for schools.

- Precious babies are being murdered in the womb.
- Planned Parenthood kills babies with our tax dollars.
- Judges make laws.

... and I, will no longer be silent

Tolerance trumps Truth.

- Homosexual sodomy is granted legal protection.
- The institution of marriage is crumbling.
- Obama says the Sermon on the Mount justifies gay marriage.

... and I, will no longer be silent

Government has replaced God as defender and provider.

- Faith-based initiatives invite the government into the Church.
- The IRS muzzles the voice of the Church.
- Taxes are levied to do the work of the Church.

... and I, will no longer be silent

G.W. Bush says Christians and Muslims worship the same God.

- The Constitution is ignored.
- Pagans pray to open a session of Congress.
- Our elected officials lie and steal.

... and I, will no longer be silent

Private property is stolen by government.

- Mother Earth is protected more than Father God is exalted.
- Illegal aliens over-run our borders.
- The entertainment industry ...

... and I, will no longer be silent

Romans 1:28-32 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.**

Why am I no longer silent?

Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, **but instead expose them.**

Because time is short and Jesus has won the Victory!

I will be planted in the TRUTH, Glorifying God,
Proclaiming His Word, Serving His People, Awake,
Alert, and Awaiting His Return!

Are you ready and do you have the Victory in Jesus?

Victory in Jesus

Hymn 82

