

CHRIST, THE TRUE AND BETTER

Malachi 4.4-6 // December 15, 2024

TO BE CONTINUED...

At the close of the Old Testament, the Lord keeps His people in suspense. Four hundred years go by before the arrival of John the Baptist and Jesus. During that time, however, a lot happened. The Maccabean Revolt was right around the middle of this period when the Seleucid Empire took control of Judea. A man named Judas Maccabaeus rose up and led a revolt, taking back Jerusalem, and he became a national hero.

Within a couple hundred years, however, Judea was again occupied by another empire, but this time it was the Romans, and the Jews were hoping for another national hero. Finally, around 30 AD, the foretold prophet announces that arrival.

John 1.6-8, 19-23 // Matthew 17.10-13

THE ARRIVAL OF THE LAMB

Unfortunately for the Jews, the arrival of this national hero is not what they expected, and they were disappointed. However, for those that recognized Jesus as the Christ, they knew that He came for a much bigger purpose, to conquer a much bigger regime than the Romans.

We are not much different. We have our wish lists and desires, our expectations and our demands that we want God to bring to us. We expect more and we expect different.

Truthfully, we wish God was more like Santa Claus.

TRUE AND BETTER

But Christ is far better and far greater than Judas Maccabaeus, and far more amazing than Santa Claus.

Jesus is the True and Better, from Adam to you.

We shouldn't minimize the very real hardships and pains we go through in this life, but there is also very, very good news for us, because while easy living is never guaranteed in this world, one thing is an important truth to remind ourselves of:

**For a non-believer, this life is the closest
you will ever get to heaven.
But for the believer, this is the closest thing
you will ever get to hell.**

NOTES:

Announcements:

KOM Christmas Rehearsal: Today after service! Plan for about 30 minutes.

End of Year Giving: Your gifts and donations to LMC are counted towards 2024 as long as they are received by December 31. Many companies will match donations made towards qualified non-profits, which LMC is. Thank you for your incredible generosity to our church!

This Week's Call to Worship Psalm:

Psalm 138

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart phone camera at the QR Code to access a virtual Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908
San Marcos, CA 92079

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Open the evening by reading the **Call to Worship Psalm** and reciting the **Memory Verse** together. Then pray the Psalm and the Memory Verse to open up discussion.

Read **Malachi 4.4-6** and **John 1.6-23**. What stands out in this verse and from Sunday's sermon?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

What incredible truths we find looking at the very last section of the Old Testament. Who would have thought a cliff hanger would offer such hope! *No one* in the entire book leading up to those last verses could do what was necessary for salvation, and yet God sent His Son to do what all others failed to do. What particular truth is most helpful to you as you remind yourself that Christ is even the true and better YOU?

Your Life Mission

Though we are not the prophesied "voice in the wilderness," just as Paul tells us to "follow me as I follow Christ," we can and should also follow the example and spirit of John (and Elijah) and be a "voice in the wilderness" of this sin ravaged and lost world. This wilderness needs the voice of Christ, and you and I are called to be that!

As Christmas approaches who in your life are you hoping to be a more effective witness to as you aim to share the Gospel with them? In what ways do you want to be a voice in the wilderness during this Christmas time?

THE LORD'S P.R.A.Y.er MODEL

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself (Matthew 6.9, 10)**
- **Repent and Confess (Matthew 6.12)**
- **Ask for Provision (Matthew 6.11-13)**
- **Yield with Thanksgiving (Matthew 6.10)**

Father, be glorified in _____, let Your Kingdom and will be done, in and through _____ as it is in Heaven.

Give _____ daily bread, and thank You for Your forgiveness.
Help _____ to forgive _____,
because You are the One who has forgiven us.

Keep _____ eyes fixed on You and Your Word and promises
so that _____ may not sin against You.
Thank You for and help me trust Your sovereign love.



MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

