



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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"Good Enough" Worship

Tyler King

When you practice an activity long enough, you eventually gain the ability to participate without the effort of the mind. For instance, I can remember when I used to weld for a profession. At first, it was a daunting task mainly because the risk of death is ever present. If you ground yourself out to the work, you essentially have upwards of 120 amps running through your body. One amp is enough to stop the heart, so there needs to be great caution with such a work. However, as time went on, I gained muscle memory. I eventually got to the point to where I would almost fall asleep when performing certain welds. Time became the enabler for me to place my mind elsewhere.

The Babylonian captivity was a very dark segment in the Jewish timeline. Slavery, labor, abuse, and belittlement occurred for dozens of years with almost no end in sight. When Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon, he inherited the Jewish population. He made a decree and allowed the people to return to Jerusalem in 538BC. As is the case with any liberty, the Jewish people were overwhelmed with joy and relief. However, as time progressed the people got complacent with their worship to God.

Malachi was dealing with the post-captivity people. He states that their offerings in the temple were shameful (1:8; 13). Their worship

consisted of offering animals that were sick, lame, blind, or taken by violence. In short, the people got lazy with their worship to God. They grabbed the first animal they saw and promoted a "good enough" worship. God responded, "shall I accept that from your hand?? Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished."

Christian worship is unique from the Old Testament because we offer the sacrifice of our praise rather than animal offerings (Heb. 13:15). Yet we can still fall victim to what Malachi was describing; a "good enough" worship. As time goes on, it gets easier to remove our mind from what it is that we're doing. When we appear before God on the first day of the week, what is the condition of mind that we're bringing?

A sleepy mind can make us miss the opportunity of engaged worship. A busy mind can distract from the greatness of the One we're worshipping. A negative mind can grumble about the song selection or long-winded prayer. What about a resentful mind? Perhaps this is the most toxic of them all. Our Lord, in Matthew 5:21-14, commands the individual to be absent from the altar until the wrongs are made right. The experience of pure, proper worship is something that far supersedes time and will last us into eternity. In just a few days, you have the chance to go before God with an undivided mind and recalibrate your soul.

May 24, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Carter Logan
Closing Prayer Eldon Alexander

Scripture Reading Dan Logan

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Dan Logan
Closing Prayer Jerry Reaves

Remember in prayer:

We have been asked to remember in prayer **Linda Hegwood**, who is having some serious hip pain.

Rick Davison (Gartrelle's Brother)

John Todd (Tara's brother).

Joan and Steve Henry

Amanda Fletcher

Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey.
Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Don Duncan, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hogle, Sammy Wyers.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Be sure to check the **VBS sign-up sheets** so we will know about how many to plan for.

Our **Fifth Sunday** surplus contribution is next Sunday and will go to Childhaven Children's Home. Thank you for your support.

Brothers Keepers Groups Two and Three will meet following services tonight.

Tim York will preach next Sunday night.

Record for the week of May 17, 2026

10 am	11 am	5 pm	M.-T. Avg.	Contribution
104	98	74	103	\$4489.50

Did You Remember To Light Your Candle?

Alan Smith

A circus owner walked into a restaurant to see everyone crowded around a table watching a little show. On the table was an upside-down pot and a duck tap dancing on it. The circus owner was so impressed that he offered to buy the duck from its owner. After some wheeling and dealing, they settled on \$10,000 for the duck and the pot.

Three days later the circus owner runs back to the restaurant in anger, "Your duck is a rip-off! I put him on the pot before a whole audience and he didn't dance a single step!" "So?" asked the duck's former owner, "did you remember to light the candle under the pot?"

Well, that might be one reason that someone would put a lighted candle under a pot, but that's not what candles are for! As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, candles are meant to "give light to all who are in the house." In like manner, our Christian lives are to "shine before men." (Matthew 5:16-17). The reason is that we are to be a positive influence on others around us.

We sometimes speak of a "secret Christian" as if that's a possibility. The truth is, unless our lives are reflecting the light of Jesus Christ, we're not living Christian lives at all. If we don't influence the world around us for Christ, the world will influence us.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteous and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9).

Did you remember to light your candle?

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan