

"I want to be a worker" (1 Thess. 1:3)

# *The Coastal Light*

Church of Christ

1912 Osborne Rd. St Mary's, GA 31558: (912)882-5800: [www.churchofchriststm.org](http://www.churchofchriststm.org)

**December 14, 2025**

**Elders:**

Linwood Burden

Terry Powell

**Deacons:**

Eric Bennett

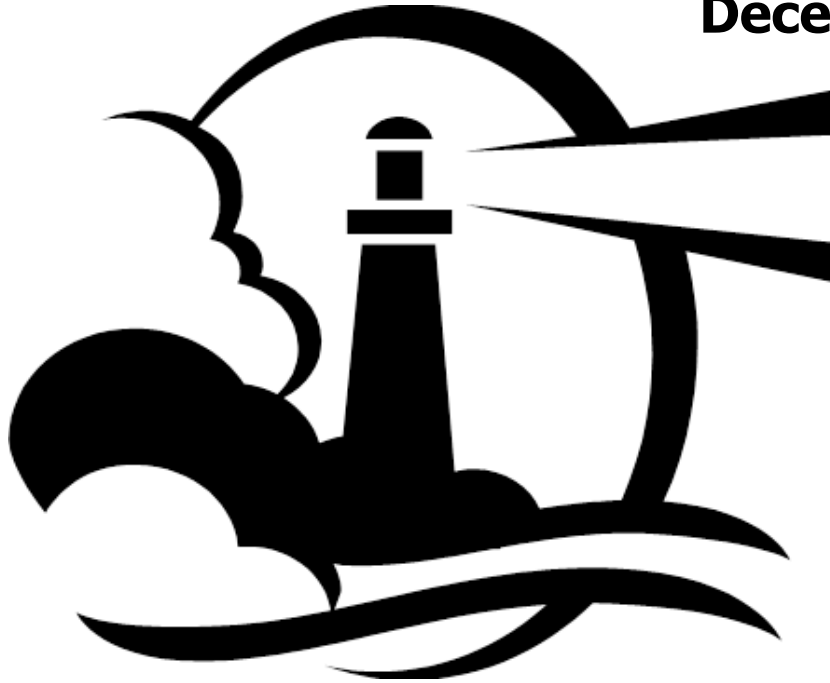
Bill Christensen

David Nordstrom

Gary Tupper

**Preacher:**

Art Wilson



"Yet who knows  
whether you have come  
to the kingdom for such  
a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

***"The churches of Christ salute you"***

Romans 16:16

## **Sunday Services**

*10:00am Bible Class*

*11:00am Worship*

*6:00pm Worship*

## **Wednesday Service**

*7:00pm Bible Class*

## **Welcome Visitors**

**You are our honored guest.  
Thank you for coming to visit with us.**

**Please complete a Visitor's Card and put it in  
the collection plate.**

**Let us know if we can assist you in any way.**

**You are encouraged to take any DVDs or tracts  
you find in the foyer and enjoy some Visitors  
Bread in the basket beside the door as you exit.**

**Past sermons can be found on our website at:  
[www.churchofchriststm.org](http://www.churchofchriststm.org)**

## PRAYER REQUEST

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Steve Lane, Mary Perry, Judy Miller, Baby  
Maude Hamshir, Mark Reynolds

### Shut - ins

Remember our shut-ins. Reach out with a  
phone call, visit or card to keep them  
encouraged.

Clyde Crane, Mary Perry, Judy Smith, Steve  
Lane,

## Announcements

Elders/Deacons / Art meet after service  
this morning

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Inspired word: 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christians Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christians Faithfulness: Revelation 2:10

## Today's Sermons:

AM –

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## Elder's

### Degrees of Reward and Punishment

Acts 26:20 speaks of "*performing deeds appropriate to repentance.*" But in Galatians 2:16 we read: *know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. ... put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ ... because by the works of the law no one will be justified.* Then further, Galatians 5:6 speaks of "*faith working through love.*" Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians of his abundant work for the Lord. Paul did not do the many good works that he did in an effort to gain salvation; rather it was the grace of God and salvation itself that led Paul to do what he did. We are expected to do good works, but not everyone is able to do good works equally. Some have "talents" greater than others. Will some receive a greater reward for their greater service in the kingdom? If we're being judged by our works, is it possible that our works therefore determine the extent of our reward in heaven? Will those who do greater works perhaps merit greater rewards? Will people like Peter and John and Paul receive a greater reward in Heaven than those of us who probably fall short of being the servants that they were? It does appear that there may be various degrees of punishment. 2 Peter 2:21 speaks of those who at one time had been faithful Christians and then turned away: "*For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.*" Another passage regarding degrees of punishment is Luke 12:47-48. In the context of being ready for the Day of Judgment, Jesus said, "*And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.*" Peter mentioned that elders will receive an "*unfading crown of glory.*" Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:17, *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.* Is Paul here saying that the reward is in heaven or on the earth? Surely good and faithful leaders of God's people are deserving of great honor and glory in Heaven. James warned that teachers "*shall incur a stricter judgment*" (James 3:1). Is it reasonable then to conclude that good and faithful teachers of the word shall receive a greater reward? The apostle Paul suffered numerous hardships because of his dedication to the Lord; will he perhaps be therefore blessed with greater honor throughout eternity? What about Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Peter, John...? Noah and Enoch walked with God. Noah alone was found righteous out of millions of people; Enoch was taken so that he did not see death. Elijah, that great prophet of God, was also taken up to be with God. Is it then perhaps reasonable to consider that some will receive a greater reward for greater works? Whether some receive greater rewards than others, it is evident from Scripture that salvation itself is a gift of God that no one can deserve by their own merits. Despite all our good works, despite all our accomplishments at sanctification, we all still stand in need of a Savior. We will never deserve eternal life because of what we have done. Thank God for what He has done