

Duncan Memorial Methodist Church

Third Sunday After Epiphany



January 25, 2026

**“The Christian and the Law”
Reverend William “Ted” Ragsdale**

Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 25, 2026

+Congregation standing, if able. Congregation responses in **BOLD**.

GATHERING

Quiet conversation among congregants is encouraged.

PRELUDE

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

C. Hamlin

Please observe a moment of prayerful silence as we enter our worship time.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katie Damon

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ragsdale

Leader: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

People: Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name; We bring our offering and come into his courts.

All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him. Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”

+OPENING HYMN

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
verses 1-4

Hymnal Pg. 57

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

Hymnal Pg. 881

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day, he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

+GLORIA PATRI	“Glory Be To The Father”	Hymnal Pg. 70
<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>		
CHURCH CONCERNS		Rev. Ragsdale
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		Rev. Ragsdale
THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	“Shine On Us”	M. Smith
+DOXOLOGY	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	Hymnal Pg. 95
<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>		
ANTHEM	“I Will Arise and Go To Jesus”	Chancel Choir
SCRIPTURE READING	Romans 7:1-13	Pew Bible NT Pg. 157
Leader:	The Word of the Lord!	
People:	Thanks be to God!	
SERMON	“The Christian and the Law”	Rev. Ragsdale
+CLOSING HYMN	“Hallelujah! What a Savior” <i>verses 1-4</i>	Hymnal Pg. 165
+DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		Rev. Ragsdale
POSTLUDE	“Postlude on ‘Azmon’”	R. Lau

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory and honor of God our Father.

Weekly Calendar

Jan. 25
11:00am Worship

Jan. 26
9:00am Counter – Anne Hudson

Jan. 27
5:00pm LOL & The Bridge
6:00pm Wonderful Wednesday Meal
6:30pm Choir Practice

This Sunday's Greeters & Ushers

Greeters: Velva Ellerbe, Louise Walters, Elsie Jayroe
Ushers/Offering: Ben Culbertson, John Kester, Velva Ellerbe, Bill Hodgin, Clay Livingston

We are glad you are here!

Welcome to Duncan Memorial Methodist Church. May this time of worship renew your spirit, draw you closer to God, and remind you that you are deeply loved and never alone.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:30pm
Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm

CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAPER TOWEL ROLLS needed! The kids are working on a project and need about 25 cardboard paper towel rolls. Please bring in all you have by February 1.

2026 Altar Flowers –If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship, please add your name to the calendar in the back hallway or call the church office at 843-546-5647.

Women's Bible Study starts back Thursday, February 5 with "Daring Joy" by Nicole Zasowski. 2 times will be offered – 10am and 5:15pm. You can purchase your own at www.lifeway.com. If you plan on attending either time, please let KassiJo know.

Duncan Oyster Roast –Saturday, February 28 join us for an All-You-Can-Eat oysters! Purchase tickets by placing a check with "Oysters" in the memo line in the offering plate. \$30 per person, \$15 per kid (10-16), kids under 10 are free.

Vacation Bible School! You don't want to miss this VBS this summer! Get ready for a fun week, Sunday, June 14 – Wednesday, June 17, 2026!

Our Faithfulness

January 18, 2026 Collection:	\$6,350.00
January 18, 2026 Attendance:	120
Budget Required To Date:	\$31,074.00
Receipts To Date:	\$30,248.00

“The Christian and the Law”

A Parenthesis is added information or clarification. Ch. 6 and 7 are a parenthesis. Now in **Chapter 7** he clarifies the comment he made in **6:14, 15** “*You are no longer under law, but under grace.*” He will answer the question - What is the purpose of the law?

7:1-6 General statement in which he defines the believer’s relationship to the law and he shows with an illustration of marriage.

7:7-13 He answers the question – “Is the law sin? (what is its purpose?)”

7:13-25 A practical working out of the first two statements.

1. **vs. 1 The relationship of the Christian to the law.** Why that old relationship had to be broken, especially in view of our sanctification.

2. **Vs. 2-3 The Law Of Marriage.**

A. By Law, a woman is bound to her husband by her vows, “until death do us part.” By Law if the husband dies she is released from the law of marriage and is legally free to marry another.

B. The illustration shows secondly that there can be a new relationship by the death of the first relationship.

C. The object of marriage is to bear forth fruit. **Gen. 1:28**

3. **Vs. 2-3 The Christian’s Relationship To The Law Pictured**

A. Man’s relationship to the law is shown in this example. Man is bound to the law, under its dominion. **Rom. 2:15 Rom 5:12**

B. *Released* - We must be released from the dominion of the law if we are to bear fruit to God. It can only be accomplished by death.

4. **Vs. 4 Paul Points To The Actions Of Christ In Relationship To The Law.**

A. In order to redeem us he was made under the law. **Gal 4:4-5**

B. The law has done everything it can to him and he died to it.

C. This is true of every Christian because we are united to him. **Gal 2:19-20**

D. Formerly we were married to the law, but now we are married to another husband “*to him who was raised from the dead.*”

E. The object is that we would bear fruit to God. **John 15:5**

THE EFFECTS OF BEING MARRIED TO CHRIST You are no longer married to the law but

now married to Jesus Christ. What is the nature of this union with Christ?

1. **The Negative** – You can not feel like you did under the first husband. We must claim

Romans 8:1.

2. **The Positive** – You are no longer married to the law but now married to Jesus Christ.

A. It is a real union, it is a complete union.. **Eph 5: 28-32**

B. It is a permanent union.

Romans 7:1-6 **Do you not know**, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

THE EXAMPLE OF MARRIAGE

2 **For example**, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, **but if** her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

3 **So then**, (open to a new relationship) if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

THE APPLICATION OF THE NEW RELATIONSHIP

4 So, my brothers, you also died to the law through (*our union to the death of*) the body of Christ, (**WHY? So that two things could happen!**) (1) that you might belong to another (be married to), to him who was raised from the dead, (2) in order that we might bear fruit to God.

FRUIT BEARING BEFORE AND AFTER

5 **For when** we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

6 **But now**, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Romans 2:15 they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of son

Galatians 2:19-20 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.