

*Singers and dancers alike will say, "My whole source of joy is in you."  
Psalm 87:7 (CSB)*

## Imagination and Faith

Because C.S. Lewis's imagination was, in his words, "baptized" while he was still an atheist—baptized as he was reading a story—artistic Christians should be encouraged. How many artistic gifts are neglected because they aren't "practical," supposedly? And yet, how marvelously practical was the story that baptized the imagination of Lewis, who would go on to become one of the great Christian teachers of the 20th century.

Lewis was 18 when he read *Phantastes* by George MacDonald. His faith matured gradually, as God cultivated what He had planted, using a fantasy story.

A speaker exegeting Scripture, inviting us to accept Jesus—this is evangelism. A friend conversing with a friend, testifying to Jesus's deliverance, introducing the friend to our Savior—clearly evangelism. But stories? Songs? Dance? Works of beauty? Can art accomplish ministry?

Every song someone listens to, every movie, whatever we watch or read, deposits a seed, I heard a preacher say today, as he taught 1 Corinthians 3:9, "you are God's field, crop, garden" (various translations). How very practical of God to ordain evangelists to practice every human work—even stories. The rational mind is important, but truth is more than rational.

Art is speaking something. May the people of God speak! May your voice minister uniquely.

Lord, make us more diligent than the world is in creative gifts, producing every kind of artistic work with excellence, trusting You to baptize imaginations by the beauty we cherish, so that You may be known to people who avoid churches.

*Stephanie McGuirk is a freelance writer in Middle Tennessee.*

3500 030925 081407520742

Photo by iStock

© Copyright 2025 LifeWay Press®. Printed in the United States of America.  
Scripture taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by  
Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible®  
and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

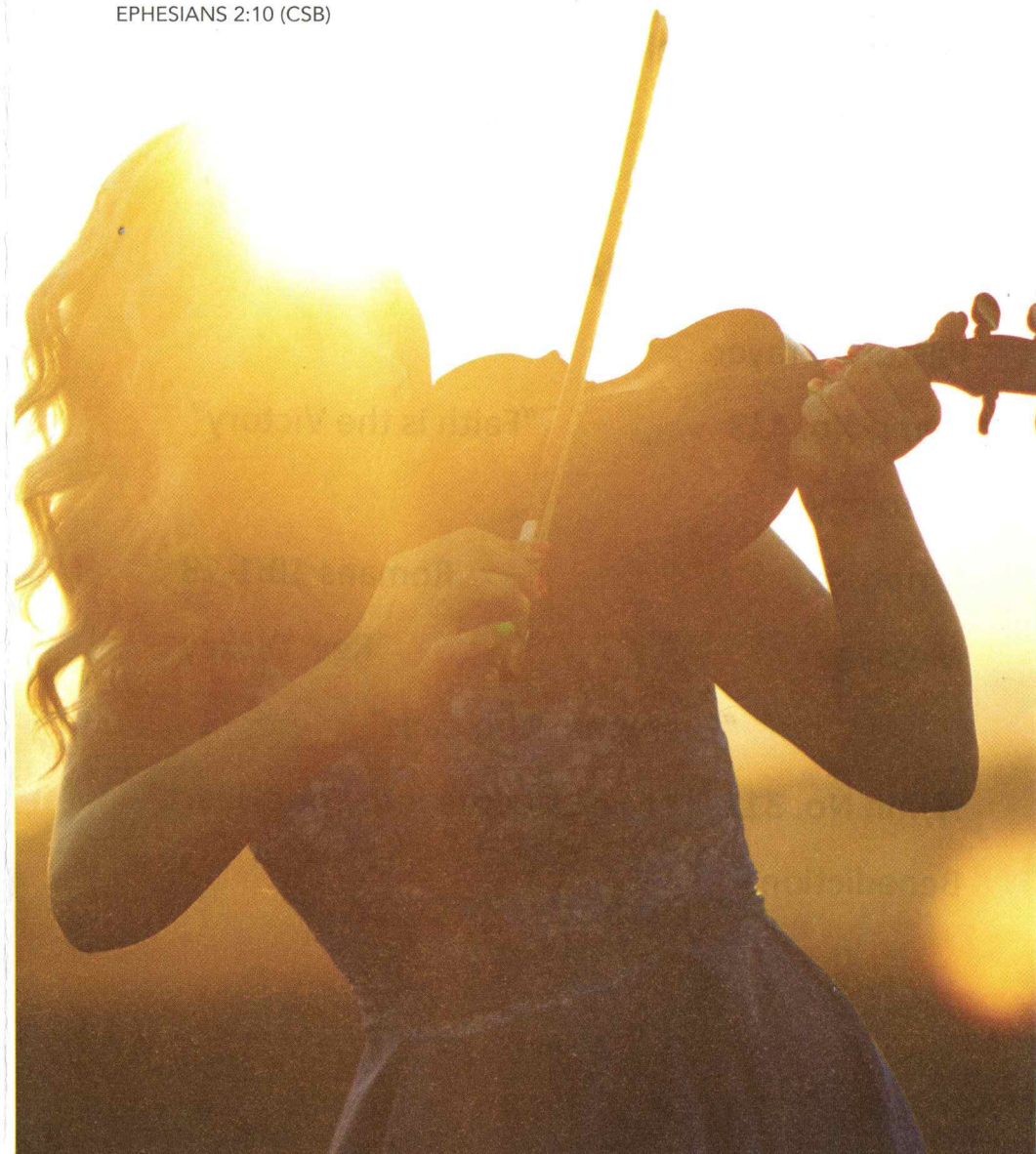
**Lifeway**<sup>™</sup>

[lifeway.com/worship](http://lifeway.com/worship)

# For we are his workmanship,

created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10 (CSB)



# SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 9, 2025

Rev. Michael Dickey, Pastor

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

Invocation and Welcome

Hymn No. 424 "Heavenly Sunlight"

Hymn No. 425 "He Keeps Me Singing"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 413 "Faith is the Victory"

Doxology

Scripture Romans 10:1-13

Message Rev. Dickey

"Everyone Who Calls"

Hymn No. 311 "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart"

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are not able to be with us.

Bible Study will be held on Wed. at 3pm (early group) and 7pm (later group and students) at the parsonage. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is for the support of our North American missionaries. All given to this offering Goes to the missionaries. Our goal is \$770.00

We have an app for your smartphone. In the app store, find "Our Church-By ChurchDev.com." When you open it, search for Sappony Baptist Church. There you will have access to our Sermons, daily devotions, and other content.

If you have not been receiving text message updates (including prayer requests) from the church, please text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282 in order to be added to the list. Also, please save that number as a contact in your phone to ensure that our messages don't go to your spam folder.

Immediately after the service today will be the quarterly Business meeting and covered dish lunch.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: Philippians 3:12-4:1