

Let's Visit

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Lessons From A Big Dog

The Bible often compares mankind to the animals, and in most instances the comparisons are not favorable in nature. You see, often the animals God created astonish human beings and sometimes the animals even put us to shame by their use of good sense. I remember reading a story of a man who would often be joined by a large dog as he took his morning walk. The dog would walk with him two or three blocks and then return to his home. One day, as they were walking, a little dog ran out and barked at the big dog. He jumped around, tried to get in the way, and annoy the big dog any way that he could. The big dog could have literally destroyed the life of this annoyance with one bite, yet he did not choose to do so. The man in the story said that the thing he was impressed with was the control of the big dog. He refused to stoop to the actions of the little dog. He controlled any desire to bite back. At the same time, the little dog could not stop his progress.

There is a lesson like that in the Old Testament. When Nehemiah was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, there were those such as Sanballat, Tobiah, the Ammonites and Ashdodites and others that would have stopped the work. They first ridiculed. They said a fox would be able to break down their wall. They even questioned whether or not these feeble Jews were going to attempt to finish the wall in only a day. Yet, this small talk did not stop the work. They tried to get Nehemiah to come to the plains of Ono for a meeting, and he had the good sense not to go. He had done them no harm. He was working for the Lord. He said, "Why should the work cease while I come down to you?" And the walls were built.

The lesson of the big dog and Nehemiah can be valuable in our progress for Jesus Christ. Those who would hinder the cause of Christ are always "yapping" at the real builders. The enemies of the Lord's cause are not interested in its peaceful prosperity. They are interested in hindering those who are trying to build. Most of those who attempt to hinder the growth and development of the church cannot do any real harm unless we allow them to do harm. It presents us with an opportunity for learning self control. Good can come from most everything if we will only give it the opportunity. Make no mistake about it, truth will always triumph over error. There is no power in the world that is able to stop the progress of those who love the Lord, unless they themselves decide to allow the power to stop them.

All the small talk, power and invitations to meetings in no way stopped the progress of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The reason was that Nehemiah refused to leave his work for other matters. If we will always do right nothing can do any lasting harm. Let the naysayers yip and bark like the little dog, we will ignore them and press the battle in the name of Jesus. Let's remember the good sense of the big dog!

tp

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

David's Method of Encouragement

We all face disappointment and discouragement in life. David, a man after God's own heart was no exception. We will take a look at his method of encouragement.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Tuna

Our Work Goes On.

Remember last week we mentioned that we are now “partnering” with 3 children’s homes and are looking to form a relationship of assistance with a 4th one. However, there are other aspects of our work as a congregation that we should also take pride in.

One area where a congregation of the Lord’s people can have an impact on the lives of others is through outreach and evangelism.

We have been for several years sending support on a monthly basis to the Television Program, “IN SEARCH OF THE LORD’S WAY” which is produced by the Edmond Church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma. You will notice on the front of our bulletin each week is an information block which tells the broadcast times for this excellent program.

In 2018, Phil Sanders, the speaker on this program was with us for our annual Area Wide Singing and Gospel Meeting and he is also scheduled to be here again next year in 2021 for our Area Wide Singing and Gospel Meeting.

However, in addition to this, we also publish articles weekly on Shelby County Today and on our

Facebook Page and we do our best to make these timely and thought provoking. We do get positive feedback on these from time to time and we do know that our column “Across The Preacher’s Desk” is seen weekly by between 4 and 5 hundred people on facebook, in addition to those who read it on Shelby County Today.

We have also been having our Area Wide Singing and Gospel Meeting every spring now since 2017 and we are planning this for the last weekend in April. Austin Wiggins from Vidor, Texas will be here to do the preaching and we hope that every member of this congregation will plan to support this effort, not only with your presence but also by inviting your friends to come and be a part of our services.

Remember, too, we also have our website (www.centerchurchofchrist.com) where we publish our bulletin on a weekly basis and also where our Sunday sermons are on-line for you to listen to them and encourage your friends to listen.

The President annually gives the “State of the Union” address to the congress. Well, the “State of the Lord’s Church” in Center, Texas is that we are alive and well and working for the Lord. Jesus calls on us to be faithful and preach the gospel and we are doing our best to fulfill those commands.

tp

On The Lighter Side.....



GOTCHA!!! ... SIMON DIDN'T SAY 'YOU MAY BE SEATED'

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Willaims, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams' son) Tim Bartlett (friend of Betty Miller) Leyton Bell (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) Edward Lee Bradshaw (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) Leslie Bradshaw (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) Pauline Bradshaw (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), Bethany Bridges (Debra Pate's friend), Jennifer Britt (friend of Thelma Hinton) Kaden Butler (Debra Pate's great grandson) Marcus Cruz Cranford (Sue Hagler's-great-great grandson) Ronnie Emanis (Sue Hagler's nephew) Mary Fleming (Mike O'Brien's aunt) Hugh Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother) Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in law) Mike Fults, Jonica Glaze (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) Virginia Goodrum (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) Buddy Hancock (Martha Jean Golden's brother) Allison Harbison, George Holder, Larry Landry (Glenna Noles Brother) Vickie Lee (friend of Sue Hagler) Justin Lout (Patricia Lout's son) Shirley Lout (Mike Lout's mother) Mason Matchette (3 year old injured in 4 wheeler accident) Mitchell McLeod (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew), Elsie Lee McDaniel (Alice Hall's sister-in law) George McNatt (Dale Findher's neighbor) Roger Scott (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) Robert Shull (friend of Sue Hagler) Margie Weaver (friend of Debra Pate)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), Harold Dawkins (friend of Thelma Hinton) David Greer (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) Carla Holt (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) Tanya Johnson (Alda Yarbrough's sister-in-law) Dora Livingston, Connie Mettauer, Tem Morrison, Teresa Richard (Friend of Norma Perkins) Bobbie Smiley, Ronnie Stanfield (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) Tina Vaughn (Sue Hagler's daughter) Jo Windham (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember Leland Bradshaw, Amanda Bradshaw and Andrew Bradshaw (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.

Old Fashioned Gospel Singing

**February 28, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

**San Augustine
Church of Christ
San Augustine, Texas**



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Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday

March 1, 2020

**Make your plans to be
here and bring a friend**



The ladies serving on the Hospitality Committee for this dinner are: Martha Bradshaw, Betty Miller, Alda Yarbrough and Debra Pate. Thank you ladies for your willingness to serve, you are appreciated more than you know.

ALSO TAKE NOTE: The door to the fellowship hall will be closed and locked following Bible Class. Please make sure to bring your food before 10:30.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 24th - 26th 2020

Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting

**Austin Wiggins – Guest Speaker
Pulpit Minister – Vidor Church of Christ**

**Remember our Sunday Afternoon Class
5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Make your plans to be here!**



Across The Preacher's Desk

To have a good friend is one of the highest delights of life. To be a good friend is one of the noblest and most difficult undertakings. Friendship depends not upon fancy imagination or sentiment, but upon character. There is no man so poor that he is not rich if he has a friend.

But friendship is a word made to cover many kindly impermanent relationships. Real friendship is abiding. Like charity, it suffereth long and is kind. Like love, it vaunteth not itself, but pursues the even tenor of its way, unaffected by ill report. Friendship is loyal in adversity and the shining jewel of happy days. Friendship does not have the iridescent joys of love, though it is closer than is often known to the highest and truest love. Its heights are ever serene and its valleys know few clouds.

To aspire to friendship one must cultivate a capacity for faithful affection, a beautiful disinterestedness, and a clear discernment. Friendship is a gift, but it is also an acquirement. It is like the rope which climbers in the high mountains bind themselves together with for safety, and only a coward cuts the rope when a comrade is in danger.

From Cicero to Emerson, and long before Cicero, and forever after Emerson, the praises of Friendship have been set forth. Even fragments of friendship are precious and to be treasured. But to have a whole, real friend is a worthy, high endeavor; for faith, truth, courage and loyalty bring one close to the kingdom of God.

it's something to think about. . . .tlp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**