

# Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ  
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 6

Number 29

July 28, 2019

## Our God Can, And He Will!

It was the summer of 1787 in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Continental Congress was assembled there working. They wanted to have a plan to establish a strong Federal Union. The articles of confederation were not working and the problems at this convention were immense. In fact, the success of the enterprise was often in doubt.

On June 28, 1787, the noted statesman Benjamin Franklin rose to speak. He said, "I have lived sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable than an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builder of Babel."

He went on to propose that from that time forward, prayer was to be offered imploring the assistance of Heaven every morning before they proceeded to take care of the days business. Fortunately, the ACLUE was not yet in existence and the devil had not yet founded the Freedom From Religion Foundation. The Supreme Court had not yet been created so no one's rights were violated by prayer at that point in our history.

It is heartening to me to know that with the trend of our day toward secular progressivism, with the disdain and often open contempt for God in our society, even among those holding high positions in our government, our nation began in an atmosphere of faith in God. It is heartening to know that

regardless of what those who have won elections in our day and time might think, our founding fathers believed in the providence of the God of Heaven and not Allah.

You see, I am not ashamed to say that I believe in the providence of God. I believe that God supervises the events of our lives. I believe that God controls the events of our world. I believe he causes these events to occur in such a way as to be a blessing to His children.

I do not believe God is responsible for every act of man. There are many acts that are contrary to His will. However, I do believe in divine providence. That is to say I believe in the foreseeing care and guardianship of God over his creation.

During Jesus' lifetime, a man came to ask the Lord to heal his son. He said, "*if you can do anything, please take pity of us and help us.*" (Mark 9:22 Phillips translation) Then, there was another time a leper came to Jesus and said, "*If you want to Lord, you can make me clean*" (Matthew 8:2, Phillips translation) In the KJV, the first of these is phrased "*If thou canst...*" The second is phrased, "*If thou wilt..*" The first man questioned the power of God while the other questioned the love of God. Divine providence depends on two things. God's power to do and God's willingness to do.

God has the power and love to care for man's

**(Continued on page 2)**

### **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.

# Gathered Here and There

## Our God Can, And He Will– continued from page 1

needs. The creation of the universe proves both the power of God and the love God has for mankind. Our universe provides ample opportunity for man to secure food, clothing, shelter and the other necessities of life. God has provided air, water and other elemental factors. He has provided beauty and aesthetic values to bless man and of course he gave man life itself.

The history of God's dealings with his people are evidence of God's power and love. Reading the Old Testament we see how He cared for Israel, leading them from Egyptian bondage and the nurturing and caring for them in the wilderness. Throughout the Old Testament, it is apparent that when man is willing to heed God's direction he is blessed. When man turns away from God in rebellion he curses himself. We can see evidence of God's providence in the lives of Joseph, Esther, Daniel and the three Hebrew captives.

In the New Testament we find further evidence of God's plan for the lives of men. Saul of Tarsus is one of the clearest examples. We read that he was a "chosen vessel". The book of Revelation is a further area of evidence. It clearly shows that God intends for his people to triumph.

Throughout the Bible, the idea of God's providence is closely associated with prayer. Always, God's children are taught to pray. Jesus taught in Matthew 7 to "ask, seek and knock". The Hebrew writer teaches us to draw near the throne of grace with boldness. There is also that familiar passage in I Thessalonians 5:17 that tells us to pray without ceasing.

A chief element in prayer is that God will do something for his children he would not otherwise do. The normal events of life are modified as a result of God's response to man's appeal in prayer.

We must never forget that God answers prayer with sometimes a yes and sometimes a no. Then, sometimes he answers prayer with a "not now, wait my child". Yet, sometimes our prayers are not heard. Sometimes we have separated ourselves from God by sin. Isaiah writes in Isaiah 59:1-2 that our sins have separated us from our God and that he will not hear. James tells us in James 4:3 that we ask and not receive because we ask amiss.

It is hardly possible to prove God has answered any particular prayer. It is also not possible to prove God's providence in any particular event in one's life. Yet, it is possible to establish the fact that God has promised to answer prayer. It is possible to establish that God has promised to intervene in our lives. It is also possible to show that God has often done this in the lives of the men and women described in the Bible.

God is no respecter of persons. His promises are for all people of all ages of time. It is therefore reasonable to believe that prayers are answered and events are changed for the Christian's good.

One of the most meaningful promises of God's providence is Romans 8:28. This passage tells us that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose. It does not say that all things are good, but it does say that God will regulate events so that good comes for us. We can look over our lives and often see that events which at the time seemed tragic have proved to be blessings. Often heartache and disappointment bring us closer to God. They lift us to higher levels of spiritual strength. In this life we have many trials, tribulations and afflictions. Yet, no final or absolute or ultimate evil will overtake us if we are Christians.

Our world is a precarious and dangerous world and there are many things that can harm mankind. Most of these have come as a result of man's own disregard of God's directions.

Paul said, "All things work together for good to them that Love God." Jesus said, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments (John 14:15) The evidence of our loving God and being his children is in keeping his commandments, that is, living God's kind of life. If we are living our lives in such a way as to make certain we are among those that love God, then we need have no fear of any ultimate tragedy. Our only real concern is to be sure we belong to the Lord. He has promised to take care of his children that love him.

*tp*

**FOR THE PANTRY....**

**Canned Meat**

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### *On The Lighter Side.....*



BEST .. SERMON .. EVER

#### Our church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Anne Burson, Lee Ola Eaves, 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, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

#### Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

**Jacob Benton** (friend of Ann Burson) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **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**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Curtis Turner** (Norma Perkins Cousin) **Norman Turner** (Norma Perkins father) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **Janice Williams**.

#### Those being treated for cancer:

**Guadalupe Beltran** (friend of Sue Hagler), **Denise Cox** (member at Joaquin) **Laura Cuzzippi** (Ann Burson's niece) **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Reita Doty** (friend Ann Burson) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **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**. (Gene and Martha's son) in Iraq.

*No one knows who is listening, say nothing you would not wish put in the newspapers.*

*C. H. Spurgeon*

## Upcoming Events

**Singing & Dessert Fellowship**  
Wednesday, July 31st

**Friends and family Day**  
September 8, 2019



## Across The Preacher's Desk

When we were in Austin a few years ago, we realized that they had revived a relic from the past and installed parking meters on Congress Avenue. These were different from the ones I remembered from my younger days when you put your penny, nickel or dime into the meter and they registered your time. These took plastic and printed you a sticker to put on your windshield.

Yet, I started thinking about those old parking meters, and how people would drive around to try and find a meter that still had time left on it and park on someone else's nickel. Then I thought, you know, there are a lot of folks who try to go through life on someone else's nickel.

You see, there are a lot of people who are directly or indirectly benefitted by the church in their respective community who make no contribution in any way to its building or program of work. Now, bear in mind these folks would not want to live in a community without the church. The tragedy is they assume the church can live on their good wishes and are quite willing to let others furnish the cash and labor for the church to go forward and continue its program of work.

So, here is the question. Are we going through life, expecting the church to always be there for us but never willing to do anything for the church? Are we doing our part or are we parking on someone else's nickel?

*it's something to think about. . . .thp*

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**