

Let's Visit

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The Proof of The Pudding

We are all familiar with a number of old sayings. One of these is “The proof of the pudding is in the eating”. It is in fact a phrase I have used on many occasions. Usually it was used to get a head start on eating something.

My mother would often make a cake or other type of dessert, something she was going to take to someone. Perhaps it was for a church covered dish dinner. Dad and I would always remind her of this phrase, telling her she should let us sample it, and make sure it was “fit to eat”. After all, we did have her best interest at heart. We didn’t want her to be embarrassed by what she made. What if it didn’t taste good? We were looking out for her. I can count on one hand the times we were successful and will have 5 digits left over after the counting is done. But that didn’t stop us from trying. Over the past 39 years I have tried the same tactic with Norma with exactly the same results. But, I shall persevere and continue to look out for her best interests.

Well, there is a passage in the Psalms that is reminiscent of that old expression. It is found in Psalms 34:8 where David says, “*O taste and see that the Lord is Good.*”

David’s challenge is that we make the pragmatic test. He invites us to “taste and see”. You see, the entire spirit of Christianity is that the Lord is good. Yet, how are we to know this? Not by hearing what someone has said. Not by believing the words of others. We are to know by making trial ourselves. After all, is that not in harmony with reason and experience? That is the best way to find out whether anything is good. We subject it to the test of trial. When we buy an automobile, we take it for a test drive. When we buy a suit of clothes, we try it on. When we go to a restaurant, if someone with us

orders some concoction we are not familiar with, we ask for a taste. Actually, what we say is, “can I have a bite”. When you go to Baskin-Robbins (one of my favorite places!) they have those little tasting spoons so you can see what the ice cream taste likes if you are getting an unfamiliar flavor. That way you know what the tutti-frutti coconut coffee peach amaretto ice cream tastes like before you order a triple dip serving.

When we try something, the knowledge gained can be acted on. We may not like the way the car handles. The suit may not fit just right on the shoulders. The poached pecan crusted grilled tuna might not taste right.

So it is with Christianity. David says, “taste and see”. But notice exactly what David says. He does not say taste and see IF the Lord is good. He says taste and see THAT the Lord is good. There is no doubt. There is no question mark. It is a settled fact that the Lord is good.

Sadly, to many this does not dispose of the question. There are those who want to ask, “If God is good, how could he have made a world where suffering, tyranny, crime, injustice, poverty and disease exist? If God is god, then having made a world like this he must be lacking in power”.

The fact that God doesn’t make life easy is no sign that he is not good. Perhaps something happens

(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

The Proof of The Pudding – continued from page 1

in the prime of life. A body is racked by a crippling disease. An individual's activity is limited, the lose their position, it is the end of a promising career. A person in that situation would often ask, "if God is good, how could he let this happen to me?" You want to ask if that is this person's most mature understanding of the goodness of God.

Do good parents who love their children always make life easy for them? Would Beethoven's music have been more beautiful if had never known deafness? Would Milton's poetry have been more moving if he had not been stricken by blindness?

The fact that God does not overrule our freedom to destroy ourselves is no proof He is not good. Suppose someone drinks too much, drives too fast and then kills someone. In the process, they also seriously injure themselves. Then they say, "if God is good, why didn't he stop me? Why didn't he prevent this?" If we choose to use our freedom to destroy ourselves, it is not God's goodness we need to question but our own.

The challenge of the Psalmist is a challenge to the unbeliever and the doubter. To taste is the most expressive image for personal experience. Tasting the goodness of God means to receive it and enjoy it in heart-felt experience. God's goodness in pardoning sin can be known only by the pardoned sinner. God's goodness in answering prayer can only be known by those who pray.

The Bible is filled with examples of the goodness of God. Just think of how God provided for the Children of Israel when they left Egypt. He parted the waters of the Red Sea to allow them safe passage. He provided manna in the wilderness. When they came to the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, he gave them victory after victory.

Then, when we come to the New Testament, we see the goodness of God in the forgiveness of Peter. We see the goodness of God as Paul was able to put the past behind Him. When we read the story of the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15, it shows for us vividly the love of God.

The ultimate example of the love of God is in the cross where Jesus died. On that rough-hewn wooden cross the spotless, immaculate Son of God died to save my soul from sin. The blood He shed

is the blood that cleanses me and washes away my sin.

When we taste and see that the Lord is good, we can then live with the confidence of Paul as he would write in Romans 8:28, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*"

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, O taste and see that the Lord is good.

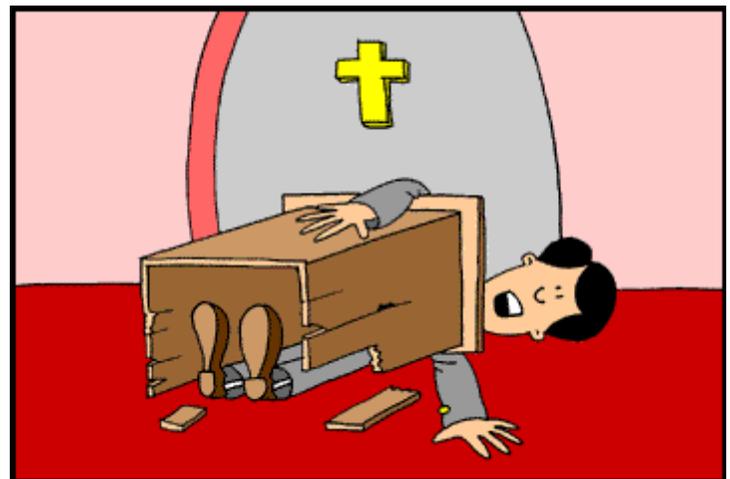
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None are more unjust in their judgments of others than those who have a high opinion of themselves

C. H. Spurgeon

On The Lighter Side.....



I GUESS NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO REMIND YOU ALL ABOUT THE SPECIAL OFFERING WE ARE TAKING TODAY FOR A NEW PULPIT

* * * * *

**If you talk about your troubles
And tell them o'er and o'er
The world will think you like 'em
And proceed to give you more!**

This and That



Those To Remember In Prayer

Getting Something From Worship

A person complained about getting nothing from worship. The listener remarked: "Did you take a sack?" implying we must expect something and be prepared with a container.

The tragedy is millions miss something tremendous on Sunday. It isn't that they do not go to worship, but they do not get anything from it. So many awake Sunday morning very lazy, decide if or not they will go, then hustle to make it, coming in late and frenzied, then fidget until it's over, then rush away. It is little wonder they get little or nothing.

People get little out because they put little in. Worship is participation not spectation. You watch a play or opera but YOU worship. The preacher, teacher, song leader, etc. may lead the service but YOU worship. One can inspire another to loftier worship, but YOU still worship.

Worship is GIVING – not necessarily the contribution. You give your time. You plan to come; you reserve a time for worship. You expect something; you come for something. Worship then is action. Having come with a definite purpose and intention, then you can sing from the heart, pray and commit from the heart. Each aspect of worship is you expressing yourself to God.

Have you ever worshipped? Really tried to gain the most from simple worship? Do you leave inspired, forgiven and directed? Do you want to return? Worship to God transcends all other human experience. When you come to worship, bring a container.

-Just A Moment

Upcoming Events

Friends and family Day
September 8, 2019

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FOR THE PANTRY—Pasta Sauce

Denise Cox was scheduled to be released from the hospital on Saturday.

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, Ethel Holder, 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) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Denise Cox** (member at Joaquin Church of Christ) **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**, **George Holder** (Ethel Holder's son) **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **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) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **Janice Williams** (Ethel Holder's daughter)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Denise Cox** (member at Joaquin) **Laura Cuzzi** (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** and **Amanda Bradshaw**, (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter) in Iraq



Across The Preacher's Desk

Most if not all of us are familiar with the first miracle Jesus performed. It was at a wedding in Cana and Jesus and his disciples were there. Jesus' mother, Mary was there too. They ran out of wine and Jesus changed six pots of water into wine. It was not just any wine, it was better wine than what had already been served.

Hidden in that story is a statement made by Mary that is often overlooked. She was speaking to the servants and recorded in John chapter 4 and verse 5 are these words, "whatsoever He saith unto you, to it." You know, that is good advice for us to take to heart in our own day and time.

You see, the commandments of Jesus, the things Jesus tells us to do, the way Jesus instructs us to live are more than just suggestions, they are imperatives. Too often in our world today we fail to take Jesus seriously and obey what He tells us to do.

Jesus had a lot to say about obedience. In the sermon on the mount in Matthew 7:21 He says, "not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven" Then again, in John 14:15, speaking to His disciples, Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

You know, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" seems like sound advice.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**