

# Let's Visit



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# Heaven

Heaven is one of those places we like to think about and sing about. In fact, we probably are better at singing than talking about it. You see, it is not a subject we preach on with any frequency. We make passing allusions to heaven, however we just don't preach about heaven very often.

A Sunday School teacher was teaching her class about heaven. She asked the children, "If I sold my house and my car, had a huge yard sale and gave all the money to the church, would that get me into heaven?" All the children answered no. The teacher continued, "If I was kind to the poor, gave candy to children and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?" Again the children replied no. The teacher then asked, "How can I get into heaven?" A little five year old boy shouted out, "You gotta' be dead."

Perhaps therein is the reason we don't talk much about heaven. It is a wonderful, prepared place, but we must die to go there. And death is not a subject we like to think about or talk about.

We are familiar with the words of Jesus in John 14:1-2 where he promised us a mansion he is preparing in heaven. We are also familiar with Matthew 6:19-20 where Jesus tells us that moth and rust will not corrupt our treasure in heaven and thieves cannot steal it. Then of course, no discussion of heaven would be complete without First Corinthians 2:9 where Paul writes, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Do you remember Marco Polo, the Venetian merchant and explorer? After his journeys in the Orient he returned to Venice and his close friends thought he had gone mad, crazy really. Especially

when he began to tell them the things he had seen. He had seen black stones that burned, he had seen a cloth that refused to catch fire, he talked about huge serpents ten paces long with jaws wide enough to swallow a man but no one had ever seen a crocodile. He had seen nuts as large as a man's head full of delicious milk and a substance spurting from the ground that actually set lamps alight but no one knew about crude oil.

Years later, when Marco Polo lay dying, a devout man was at his side. The man was urging him to recant all the tall tales he had told. Yet, Marco Polo refused saying, "It's all true, every bit of it. In fact, I have not told half of what I saw." In that same way, I can imagine that God has not told us half of what is waiting in heaven.

The Bible you see, tells us that heaven is a place. It is a place that Jesus repeatedly talks about. It is a prepared place and an interesting place for prepared people. If you were asked to describe heaven, how would you describe it? We might describe it as a beautiful place with walls of jasper, gates of pearl and streets of gold. After all, that is what the Bible says about it. We would also say, as we have learned from the Bible that it is a place of happiness and joy. It is a place where God will wipe away all our tears and there will be no suffering, no weariness and no separation.

**(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

Heaven – continued from page 1

As I think of heaven, I am reminded of a story about a man in Wal-Mart. He was in line behind two children waiting to check out. It was a small boy of about ten and his younger sister. They had a pair of those metallic gold slippers. The boy also had a fistful of crumpled bills and some coins. They did not have enough money to buy the shoes. The little girl sobbed and said Jesus would have liked the slippers. The man paid for them and asked what she meant. The little boy answered for his sister. "Our mother is sick. Dad said she might go to heaven to be with Jesus before Christmas." Yes" said the little girl, "and my Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold. Won't my mommy look beautiful walking on those streets in those slippers? The man looked down to the tear streaked face and said, "Yes, I am sure she will."

Is your picture of heaven that clear? Your picture represents your hope. That little girl had been given the hope of heaven by her Sunday School teacher.

Do you have that picture of heaven? Are you living God's kind of life, in God's way so that heaven will be your home. That is the question you and only you know the answer to. But you do know the answer.

tp

## On The Lighter Side.....



BEING AS WE ALL, LIKE SHEEP, HAVE GONE ASTRAY IT MADE SENSE TO BRING SPORT HERE ABOARD



*We have come to a turning point in the road. If we turn to the right it may happen that our children and our children's children will go that way; but if we turn to the left, generations yet unborn will curse our names for having been unfaithful to God and to His Word.*

C. H. Spurgeon

## Are You A Rusty Nail?

A strong magnet may be held over an old rusty-eaten shapeless nail without meeting any response. A bright, shining nail will leap to the magnet, attract another and through it draw yet another until several are attached.

That is how Christians are. A really genuine active, shining Christian has a tremendous attraction to Christ, is magnetized with is love and purity, attracted by his power. Through that Christian, Christ can draw others to him to share the same power and attraction.

But a rusty, unpolished, corroded Christian, cranky, defiled and selfish has very little attraction, and through them the power of Christ to win the world cannot flow.

God has enough power to wipe out every vice and every evil doctrine in this world, but he needs conductors. Rusty, untaught and unpracticed church members neither draw others near to God nor are drawn near themselves.

Your religion must be intensive before it can be extensive.

-selected

# This and That

## Try This On Yourself

Am I really and truly interested in the church – in helping it achieve its objects and ideals – or do I just think I am? What do I do to prove my interest – that is half as vital for example, as I think it is?

How do I look to the man on the outside? Could he tell I am interested by what I do? How do I look to him?

Am I a good example for anybody to follow? Or do I just think I am? Or do I think about my responsibility, in this connection, at all?

Do I attend church service as often as I think I do?

How would the minister classify me? As interested? Indifferent? Cold? As a friend and helper, or just as – one of the congregation? Would he be justified by what I do?

Do I really give as the Lord hath prospered me, or do I just think I do? If I should add up my contributions to local church support and to missions, would they represent as large a part of my total income as I think they do?

Would a stranger think me as liberal as I think I am, even if he had all the facts of my other responsibilities?

Do I really care for missions at all? Do I really ever deny myself – a new suit, cigar, dinner at a fine restaurant, etc. – to help forward the cause? Do I really ever deny myself or do I just think I do?

Do I really believe it more blessed to give than to receive, or do I just think I do?

What kind of church member am I anyhow? Am I the kind I think I am, or do I just think I am?

-F. B. Shepherd

## Upcoming Events

Friends and family Day

September 8, 2019



## Those To Remember In Prayer

Denise Cox will begin radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

Tina Vaughn (Sue Hagler's daughter) is scheduled for a PET scan on a spot on her lung Thursday.

### 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) **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** (Themla 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 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** and **Amanda Bradshaw**, (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter) in Iraq

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FOR THE PANTRY—Dried Pasta



## Across The Preacher's Desk

If you talk to my wife or daughter-in-law, they will tell you I am one of the best drivers around at missing a turn. Sometimes, we all do that, and when we do, we can back up. We can put the car in reverse. When you think about it, often one of the best ways to correct an error is to back up.

In addition to mechanical reverses, there are also physical or material reverses. If someone finds themselves in the wrong job or profession, they back up and find another one. When we make a purchase, there is the right to return it for an exchange or refund. There are "idiot turns" on the freeway for folks like me without a GPS.

Yet, our greatest need is for spiritual reverses. It was the great preacher of another era, Marshall Keeble who said, "The biggest problem with people is that they just don't want to back up". However, the Bible tells us there are two roads of life. There is the broad way or the narrow way. The right way or the wrong way. The way of life or the way of death. Sometimes we need to back up so we can get on the right road.

When the Bible speaks of reverse, the word used is repent. It means a change of conduct to back up and go the right way. This is often the greatest need in our lives. Repentance, putting yourself in reverse, backing up, is the hardest work of man. It is the most difficult thing a proud man or woman is called on to do. However, if we are willing to repent, our God is the God of the second chance.

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

**Great Churches are built with Commitment!**