

Let's Visit

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A Letter To The Congregation of Israel

(The following is a fictitious letter that might have been sent out by Nadab and Abihu had they done things the way they are don in our day and time.)

Dear Brethren,

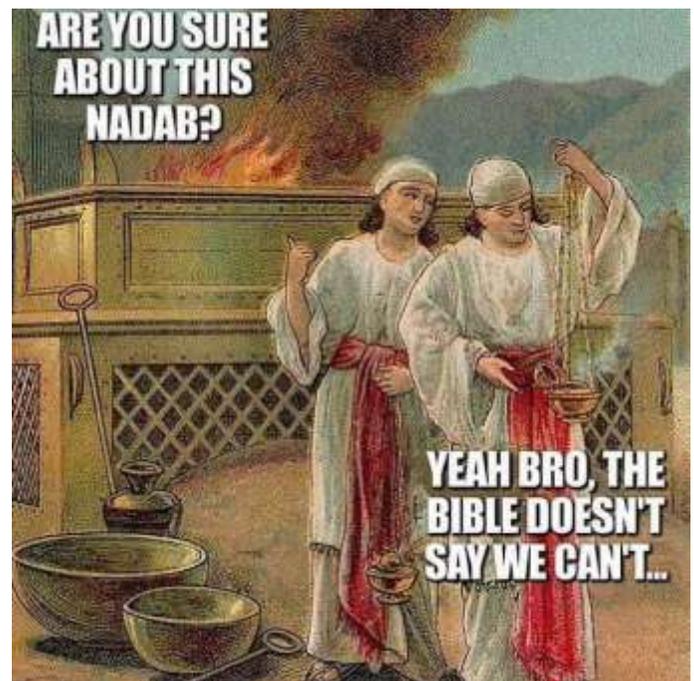
It is with utmost humility that we inform you of a change of worship practices in your normal sacrificing. Be assured that we are bringing about this change only after much prayer and study. We have recently concluded an in-depth study of the Law as delivered by our brother Moses that covered 400 days. (We might note that is ten times the length of time it took the Lord to impart this law)

We have decided to bring about a change in the type of fire used in worship. We are aware that there is a standing tradition of using only one-source of fire, but we (as holy priests) do not feel obligated to blindly follow tradition. Numerous polls of our worshipping clientele indicate the overwhelming opinion that they do not care where we get the fire used for their sacrifices just as long as the service is conducted in a respectful and meaningful way.

We were in agreement with this growing majority, as we cannot see how a change in fire will affect anything in the least about our sacrifices. The animal is still properly cooked, the incense burned. We are of the mind that were we to secretly substitute a different fire it would be impossible for any of the worshippers to know a change had taken place.

Besides all this, we became aware of the fact that nowhere in the Law does the Lord forbid the use of what some of our detractors have referred to as "strange fire". We feel that the lack of such a restriction was meant to give us freedom. For those

who disagree, we would ask you to show us anyplace in the Law that tells us we cannot do something the Lord has not seen fit to condemn.



We also wish to point out that the congregation of Israel is the only religious group in the known world that willingly limits itself to only one kind of fire. We have become the laughingstock of the land of Canaan and have been ridiculed openly by many groups. This "only one fire" self-righteous policy
(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. Sunday

Gathered Here and There

Open Letter To Israel – continued from page 1

has alienated us from everyone else. We believe this change will open new fellowship opportunities.

Now to set the minds of some of you at ease, we will continue to offer a traditional service using the old fashioned fire as well as this progressive service with the new fire. As a matter of fact, we may occasionally use the old fire in our progressive service for special feast days. In this way we hope that our older citizens are still comfortable even though they dogmatically insist on a worship style which is declining and we believe to be stunting our growth.

Consider the freedom this new practice affords us! We will no longer have the expense of maintaining a constant fire in one location. This will also make it possible to appeal to a younger audience as we discover more entertaining ways to “light the fire” of our assemblies. (We hope you caught the little play on words there!)

For those who still oppose the use of new fire, we ask you not to be judgmental of new ideas. We also hope you will not use this change as an excuse to divide our people or stir up trouble within the congregation. We remind you that this has been well thought out and the majority of elders have signed on with us. It is true we have not included our father, Aaron, in this deliberation; but we were well aware of his tradition-bound views and still plan to leave him in charge of doing the traditional service anyway. We also have not consulted Moses, but his humility is well known and we are confident he will want to uphold the majority decision in this effort to improve our worship.

We are very much looking forward to our first new fire service. We hope you will make a special effort to be present to witness a new age of enlightenment in the church of Israel. We know God will be watching and we anticipate that His joy over seeing His people take a great step toward throwing off the burden of binding tradition will be an electrifying experience.

See you there. Bring some extra barbecue sauce, for we think this new practice is going to spread like wildfire!

Nadab & Abihu, D. D. L. & P.
(Doctors of Divine Law and Progress)

P.S. After the successful changeover in this part of our worship, future plans include the ordination of women priests, inter-idol fellowship activities with the various pagan groups nearby, and a special service called “it doesn’t have to be Passover to celebrate Passover anymore”)

(NOTE: I wish I had the creative ability to come up with such articles as the above, however, we all have our limitations. I don’t know who wrote it, but we first published it in our bulletin April 8, 2010 and it certainly has a message in it for the church of the 21st century. – tp)



Today’s Sermon

The Goal of Restoration

Another installment of our sermon series:

The Misunderstood Church

FOR THE PANTRY....

Rice

On The Lighter Side.....



I’VE HAD A FULL LIFE ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO GIVE ME ANOTHER GO-AROUND

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON



**Sunday
December 8, 2019**

**Please plan to
come and bring
someone with
you!**

GOSSIPING

If there are degrees in sinning, if one is worse than another, then we must place the sin of gossiping close to the bottom of the list. Gossiping is reprehensible and deliberate. It is entirely without reason or provocation and often is done in a way that gives its victim absolutely no opportunity to defend himself. The gossip rarely undertakes to verify the tales he peddles, but passes them on as though he were engaged in the most innocent pastime. The gossip doesn't take money from the cash register or rob a bank; he is an honest man. Nevertheless, he steals, for he robs his victim of his most valuable possession, his reputation among his fellows.

Gossiping may not be lying in its technical sense, but as it passes on from one gossip to another, its accumulated exaggerations and multiplied misrepresentations bring it pretty close to the line. The gossip doesn't kill anyone, but nevertheless he is a murderer, for he kills the good name and standing of many an innocent person.

Even if the one talked about be guilty, the Christian's attitude should be one of sympathy and helpfulness. Not so with the gossip. Sunday morning he sings "Lift Up The Fallen", all the time greasing the skids so he will slide faster down the grade.

-The Reminder

Teresa Richard (friend of Norma Perkins') is scheduled for a surgical procedure at M. D. Anderson on Monday

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Anne Burson, 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) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Jacob Benton** (friend of Ann Burson) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **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) **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) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **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**, **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** and **Amanda Bradshaw**, (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter) in Iraq.



Across The Preacher's Desk

Oftentimes we wonder why the church is weak, and why that in a recent nationwide poll, almost 70% of those who claim membership in church never attend services.

We could blame it on our secular-progressive society, and we often do. We could blame it on the godless politics of our nation, organizations like the ACLU and Freedom From Religion Foundation, and they too are often our "whipping boy". We could even blame it on churches, hypocritical members and uncaring preachers and there are numerous Christians who are doing that also.

Maybe, just maybe, it's time for church members to look in the mirror, really take a good look at what they see. Perhaps congregations across America are weak because many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the local church, the body of Christ.

People come to the church expecting to be served, fed and cared for. God did not give us the local church for it to be a "Country Club" where membership means there are privileges and perks. The church is where we are to serve, care for others, pray for leaders, learn, teach and give.

Perhaps churches are weak because we have turned the meaning of membership upside down. We were saved to serve, not saved to be served.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**