

# Let's Visit

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## Are You Filling Your Place?

It was Nathaniel Hawthorne who said, "every individual has a place to fill in the world, and is important in some respect, whether he chooses to be so or not." I believe this is true concerning the church Paul said, "*those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary*" (I Corinthians 12:22). A reading of that entire chapter will reveal that Paul believed every member of the church has an important place to fill. There are two thought we need to consider.

There are those who do not realize the place they can fill, and go about trying to fill the wrong place. The Lord planned that certain services should be performed and that men should be trained to render those services. Evangelists are serving under a Divine calling. Not that God calls preachers as some denominational groups declare, but that he does call men through their love for his cause and preparation in this matter. If you are not a preacher in this sense, you cannot fill this place. It is foolish to try. It is more an evidence of ignorance in the matter to try to tell one trained for this service how to fill his place. It was the Lord's plan that men should be selected to oversee a congregation. They have a Divine calling and have been selected by the congregation over which they serve to fulfill the obligations the service demands. It is foolish for others to try to fill the place for them. This does not mean that people appointed to special service are not open to suggestions. All good men are. But they should be allowed to make decisions and plans for the congregation without interference from those who cannot fill the place. Elders cannot always tell everyone the reason for some decisions because they deal with too many delicate matters. Keeping a congregation operating in unity and moving on to

bigger things is no little job. They cannot even afford to be directed by their wives in matters that pertain to the Lord's work. If they are what God wants them to be they will be directed only by the will of the Lord, and people who respect the Lord's plan will allow them to fill their place with cooperation and respect from others. There are many ways to illustrate this thought, so you can go on from there.

There are a still greater number who will not fill any place. They see places to fill only in the sense of selection. Unless they are selected to fill a place, like serving as an elder, deacon, teacher, etc. they do not feel that they are obligated to render any more service than is required to be present for worship. Such reasoning is void of understanding.

In a congregation of the Lord's people there are many things that need to be done that call for no official appointment at all. Love for the cause of Christ and the souls of men is all that one needs to prompt him to fill a place that is within his reach. It may be helping one in trouble, talking to someone about his soul, or just bringing one to the church services. There are many such services that are waiting for you to perform them. Hence you have a place. You are important to the work. The church can grow much faster and become much stronger if you will fill your place. Are you filling it?

-Cleon Lyles

### 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



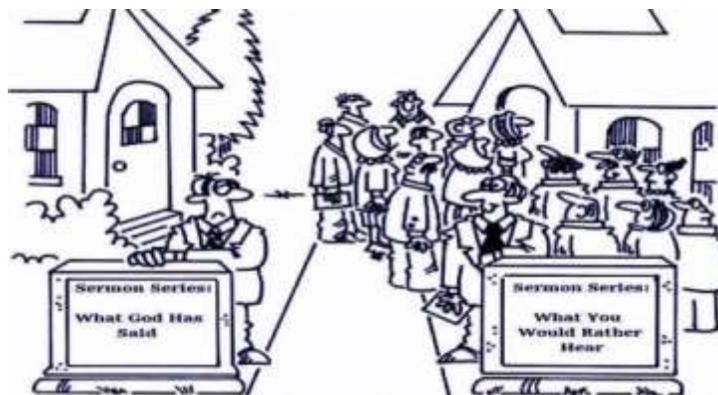
**New Sermon Series**

**Beginning Today!**

## **The Misunderstood Church**

**Invite your friends to come  
and join us for this series  
of lessons.**

*On The Lighter Side.....*



## **Almost Religion**

There is a religion which is too sincere for hypocrisy, but too transient to be profitable, too superficial to reach the heart, too unproductive to proceed from it. It is slight, but, as far as it goes, not false. It has discernment enough to distinguish sin but not firmness enough to oppose it, conviction sufficient to soften the heart, but not vigor enough to reform it. It laments when it has done wrong and performs all the functions of repentance for sin, except forsaking it. It gives nothing to religion but the heart. This is a religion of times and events and circumstances. It is brought into exercise by incidents or accidents, and dwindles away with the occasion that called it out. Festivals or fasts which occur but seldom are much observed, and it is to be feared because they occur but seldom; while Sunday, the great day which occurs weekly, comes too often to be treated with respect and reverence. The piety of people whose religion is of this kind comes out much in sickness, but is apt to retreat again when recovery approaches. If they die, they are placed by their admirers in the calendar of the saints; if they recover they place themselves with the world they had renounced again to love it while health continues and again to suspend their amendment as often as death suspends his blow.

*-selected*

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## **“I Can’t”**

How many times is the above expression used in the wrong way? It denotes physical inability. To many times people say, “I Can’t” when they actually mean “I don’t want to”.

Sometimes we hear people say, “I can’t go to church services because I haven’t anything to wear.” Yet, they go to the movies, the club meetings, the ball games, etc. What they actually mean is, “I don’t want to.”

Sometimes people say, “I can’t talk to others about becoming a member of the church.” But they can talk about ball games, about the business of making money and about politics. What they actually mean is, “I don’t want to”.

Sometimes there are those who say, “I can’t sing”. But they are heard singing the latest popular music and the newest country songs. What they actually mean is, “I don’t want to sing hymns.”

Sometimes folks say, “I can’t give much to the church.” But they buy houses and lots, farms, new cars, new appliances and new furniture. They have money to take trips, to go to the movies, every ball game and every other form of entertainment. What they actually mean is, “I don’t want to give to the church”.

*-selected*

**FOR THE PANTRY....**

**Sugar**

*Worry is a dog chasing his tail. Remorse is when he catches it. Despair is when he bites it off.*

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### COVERED DISH LUNCHEON



**Sunday  
December 8, 2019**

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

### One in ten.....

There were ten lepers healed, and only one turned back to give thanks, but it is to be noticed that our Lord did not recall his gift from the other nine because of their lack of gratitude. When we begin to lessen our acts of kindness and helpfulness because we think those who receive do not properly appreciate what is done for the, it is time to question our own motives.

*-copied*

*If the church does not miss you when you remain away from the services, it is a far worse commentary upon you than upon the church. The fact that you are not missed is more likely to be due not to others; lack of appreciation, but rather to your lack of faithfulness.*

*-copied, Just a moment*

### Jesus Is Still The Great Physician

Jesus is the "Great Physician", the "world's teacher" and the climax is reached in his being a "friend of sinners".

Jesus was not the "friend of sinners" in that he encouraged them in their sins, but in the fact that he was willing to save them from their sins.

Humble, penitent, contrite hearts always appeal to Jesus. Such a condition of heart and life will receive a blessing from the "Great Physician".

*-selected*

Carla Holt had her surgery in Houston on Thursday and is recovering at home.

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

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams son) is hospitalized in Houston with heart issues.

#### 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:

**Krysta Andrus** (Norma Perkins' niece) **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

Often we hear people talk about “choosing a church” or “looking for a church home” like they were doing their Christmas Shopping or buying a new suit of clothes. I have heard folks say, “I am shopping around for a church and when I find the one I want, I’ll join it”.

That statement prompts a question. Where are we shopping? By this statement, people mean they are going from one church to another. They attend services one place this Sunday, somewhere else next Sunday, and some place different the next Sunday. They base their decision on such criteria as friendliness, social activities, environment and “the meeting of felt needs”. They keep shopping until they have found these before settling down.

Yet, suppose we find everything in a church that we want, is that proof that it is what God wants? If we find what is pleasing to God, we must do our shopping in the word of God. There we will find all God wanted to say about the church. He will tell us about its beginning, its worship and its work. When it comes to choosing a church, let us make certain our criteria comes from the scriptures and not from men.

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**