



LET'S VISIT

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

Volume 11

Number 14

April 7, 2024

RUNNING FROM GOD

One of the most foolish things a man ever tried to do is recorded in the first chapter of Jonah. God had commanded Jonah to "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." For some reason Jonah did not care to go, so, "*But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*" (Jonah 1:3) Jonah never would have tried this had he realized as much about God as David did. David knew God was everywhere. That is why we hear him say, "*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*" (Psalms 137:7-13) One of the first lessons Adam learned was that he could not hide from God. He tried it, but was soon found out.

Why would someone want to run from the presence of God? When you consider what we can enjoy in the presence of God, it seems foolish to even suggest that one should run. Let's notice some statements about what can be enjoyed in the presence of God. "*In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures evermore*" (Psalms

16:11) So great is the presence of God, David said, "*The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.*" (Psalms 97:5) Peter speaks of "*Times of refreshing coming from the presence of the Lord.*" (Acts 3:19) With these thoughts we certainly know that one is void of reason who would run from the presence of God. Running away from the presence of God is running from the only source of complete happiness. Yet, multitudes have always left Him. Jonah does not stand alone in running from God. Many run from God because they are afraid. Yet, why should they be afraid? Certainly no one could accuse God of being so severe as to try to make life uncomfortable. Has he not done just the opposite? It is not necessary to use a lot of space to point out the goodness of God. Look up or down, within or without, and the goodness of God is present. "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork...his judgments and statutes are more to be desired than gold, yea, than fine gold sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb*" (Psalms 19) We are afraid of God because of our disobedience. Adam said, "*I heard thy voice in the garden and I was*

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
KSLA 12 - Shreveport - 11:00 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 373 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



It Could Have Been You!

**For The Pantry. . .
April 7 – Canned Fruit**

Offering – March 31, 2024. \$2,158.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Running from God – continued from page 1

Afraid." (Genesis 3:10) God was inquiring about his obedience. Adam finally admitted he had disobeyed God. He had not been afraid before. The very story indicates that Adam and God had often talked with each other. Only this time Adam was afraid, because he had failed to obey God. So it was with Jonah. So it is with us. We run from God because we are afraid. We are afraid because we know we have failed to live God's kind of life. We prefer other company. We select another path. We obey another God. Because of this, when God extends his blessings we often run from God. When we are living a life of obedience, when we are living God's kind of life, God's way, we will not run from God.

tp

How Great the Church ?

How great should the church be? How strong does our Lord want it to be? How many members should the church have? How many people should the church reach in the Bible School? These are important questions. Have you ever taken the time to answer them? Your answers may indicate your spirituality, and the amount of love you have for the church.

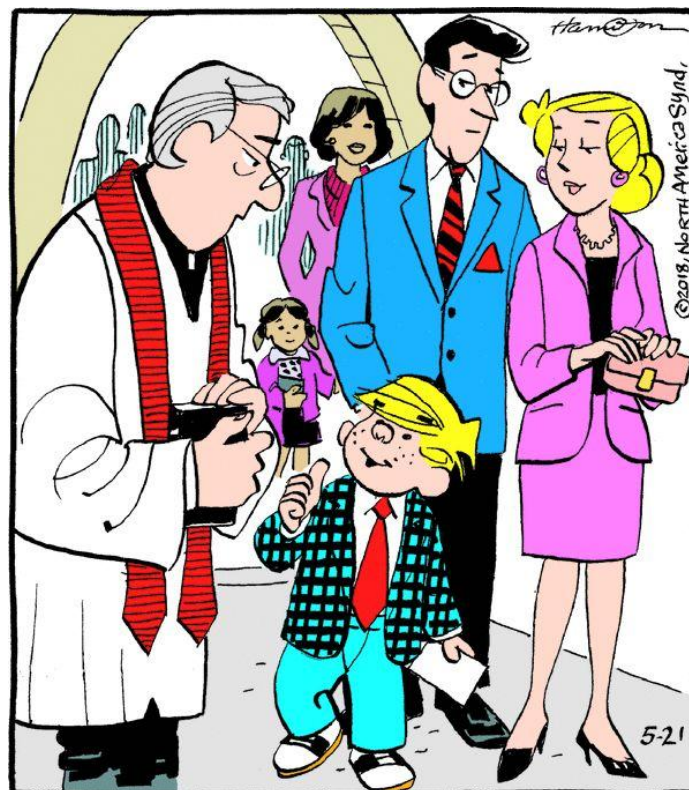
We should have vision for the benefit of the church. Our Savior looked into the future and saw

the church as a world-wide organization whose influence reached into the hearts and lives of men to mold them for that which is good. Every creature was to hear the gospel of Christ. Every person was to have the privilege of entering into the church. Does this correspond to the plans that we have for the church of the Lord? How great is the church in our plans?

This vision that Christ had for the greatness of the church also tells us something of the obligation that is the heritage of each member of the church. It is our obligation to see that the gospel is preached, and to see that the church fulfills her mission to the world. No one else is interested in the church being great. No one else is interested in the church enlarging her facilities for caring for those who need the doctrine of Christ. If members of the church of the Lord do not do this work, then it will not be done. If the work is not done, then the members of the church have failed! They have failed to live up to the trust placed in them by Christ.

-Foster L. Ramsey

On The Lighter Side. . .



"GREAT SERMON! YOU DIDN'T GO ON AND ON AND ON THIS TIME."



AREA WIDE SINGING!



Mark your calendar for Friday, April 26, 2024. We will be hosting an Area Wide Singing. Make your plans to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to

come and plan to stay for a time of fellowship after the singing.

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There Will Be No Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal in April



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Upcoming Area Events

GOSPEL MEETING – San Augustine Church of Christ, April 7-10, 2024. Ivie Powell will be doing the preaching.

LADIES' DAY – April 27, 2024 at the Tenaha Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. til 12:30 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

- April 26, 2024 – Area Wide Singing
- June 2, 2024 – Covered Dish Luncheon
- September 8, 2024 – Friends & Family Day
- December 8, 2024 – No Excuse Sunday
- December 15, 2024 – Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Roxie Bostick, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Gail Foster (Cancer) Bobbie Gray (Jerry Pate's Aunt) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Glynn Hartt (friend of Cissy Amos) Joe Hughes (Cissy Amos' father); Sonya Hughes (friend of Gene and Martha Bradshaw) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Verven Pate (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. Stephanie Richard (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; Traci Roden (friend of Norma Perkins) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Michael Smith (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; Buddy Sowell (friend of Debra Pate) J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

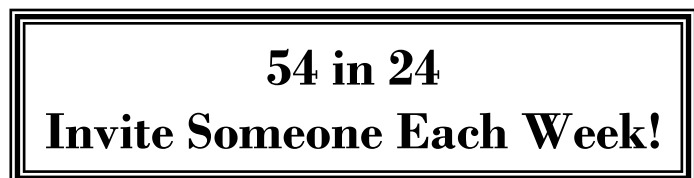
THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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He who maintains an unhappy relationship with his fellows cannot be right in his relationship with God.

It is better to say good things about a bad man than to say bad things about a good man.





Across The Preacher's Desk

Have you ever given thought to the things you save? Some folks make sure to save their bacon grease. Some folks save their used foil. Some save string, others save pins and others make collections of various kinds. It may be a coin collection, a doll collection or a collection of sports trading cards. However, if you will tell me what a man or woman saves, I will be able to tell you what kind of person they are.

You see, what we save is usually an indication of what we consider to be important. Some save money and accumulate large bank accounts because they consider money to be important to them. Have you ever considered the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:21? He said, "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

We must realize it is important for us to lay up treasure in heaven. If we fail to do that, we have neglected the most important of all savings. A man or woman may be rich by the standards of this world and yet be a pauper in the sight of God because they have not saved the spiritual treasure the Lord encourages us to obtain. Earthly treasure must be left behind. Perhaps it is time for us to take inventory and answer the question of what we are saving. It's something to think about.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**