

# Let's Visit

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## Light In The Darkness

Oftentimes there is a heavy mood among people in our world. Recent events in our world, both overseas and in our own land have had a profound effect on folds. Because of the unrest in other parts of the world, and the unrest in our own nation, there is a mood often of disillusionment mixed with discouragement. Things we once thought certain are no longer certain. Things we once thought secure are no longer secure. The threat of terror attacks is greater than at any time in recent years. There is uncertainty about our economy with increased inflation and the current political landscape is like a minefield.

One often wonders what ordinary people, people like you and me, can do. How can we make a difference and change the shape of things? What's the use of hoping and praying for a better world? It seems often the odds against us are overwhelming.

When you read the book of Revelation, you can be sure that the first Christians battled against this mood also. That little handful of early disciples must have felt insignificant. Can you imagine what it was like for them as they went out to tell their story and to accomplish their mission?

Try and go back to their day by an eye of faith. Hear Jesus tell them they have not chosen him, but he has chosen them. Listen as he tells them they should go and bear fruit. He tells them to go and make disciples of all nations. Yet, the way was apparently blocked by the opposition of the Romans. The antagonism of the Jewish church was also standing in the way. Then add to that the apathy of the people.

Look at that little group of men. What did they have with which to make an impact on the world? I am confident history would have treated them kindly

had they given the whole enterprise up as a hopeless dream.

Have you ever wondered what motivated them to keep going? Why didn't they give in to the mood of futility that hangs so heavy on the souls of good men and women today? Well, the New Testament gives us the answer. They had a Master who fortified them against it. He would not allow them to give in to their fears. He would not allow them to fear the darkness. Jesus taught them to believe in the effectiveness of light.

Jesus told them, "Ye are the light of the world." He insisted that "a city set on a hill cannot be hid." As we have heard on many occasions, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." But that only leaves us bitter and depleted. We have the same Master those early disciples had to lead us. Jesus then as now believed in the effectiveness of candlelight. He told His friends to leave off cursing the darkness. He wanted them to spend their time lighting candles. That is what we need to be doing in our day and time. But naturally the question comes, how can we accomplish that?

We can pray. More than any other time in our life, prayer is needed now. We cannot do anything more important than pray. We can pray for our nation and its leaders, we can pray for those we love

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### 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



## Today's Sermon

### “Who Is This Man Jesus”

Our text comes from Matthew 16:15. Jesus has gone to the regions around Caesarea Philippi with the Disciples. While he was there he asked two very important questions. He wanted to know who men said that he was and who they said that he was.

## FOR THE PANTRY....

### Spam

## Light In The Darkness – Continued from page 1

and we can pray for the church. Remember the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and that was the only thing they asked Him to teach them.

Our prayer must be Christian prayer. Some would say, “well, if we pray it will be Christian prayer because we are Christians”. But, what do we mean by “Christian Prayer”? It is prayer consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Let's be honest, some of our prayers are anything but Christian. Many of our prayers are “sub-Christian”. They are prayers that our will might be done. Often they are presumptuous, impatient and arrogant. They are self-absorbed and self-concerned.

As Christians, we need to pray the prayer of repentance. The Publican of Luke 18 set the example for this. As Christians we need to pray for our nation and we need to lead the nation to humble, heart-searching, life-changing repentance.

We need to pray the prayer of dedication to the will of God. Our prayer should be like that of Jesus in Gethsemane. Do you remember? Jesus prayer, “not my will but thine be done.” Our prayers can be candles in the darkness if they are the expression of a passion to discover and co-operate with the will of God. Through prayer, we must surrender ourselves

and become instruments in the Hand of God to accomplish His will.

Now, here is where it can become difficult. Our prayer should be for all men, not just those we love. Jesus tells us that we must pray for our enemies as well as our friends. We preach, teach, sing, pray and carry on the work of the church in the name of Jesus. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for them. He set the example on the cross as he prayed for those who put Him there. Can we be true to Jesus and do less?

In our daily lives, we must exemplify Jesus. When others look at our life, what image of Jesus do they see? It is the way we conduct our commonplace lives that offers the greatest opportunity to make an impact for our faith. Jesus spent a lot of his ministry trying to show ordinary people how magnificently their simple lives could count. He commended the gift of the poor widow. He concerned himself with the man of one talent. He took notice of such simple deeds of compassion as the giving of a drink of water.

To light a candle in the darkness, we must be true to Jesus. Jesus tells us to let our lights shine.

The darkness is ominous and depressing. Yet, there is task to be done. A task that is waiting for you and for me. Light a Candle!

*tp*

## On The Lighter Side....



WELCOME, HAVE A BUSHEL OF TOMATOES FOR OUR NEW 'RATE THE SERMON' SYSTEM

# Miscellaneous

## Friends & Family Day



Invite your family and friends and plan to be here!

### September 12, 2021

### - REMEMBER -

There are postcards on the shelf in the foyer for you to pick up and mail to your friends and family to invite them to attend our "Friends and Family Day"

**PLEASE DO THIS!**

### Some Things To Remember

Visit our website...

[www.centerchurchofchrist.com](http://www.centerchurchofchrist.com)

Watch Sermon Videos on You Tube...

Visit Our Facebook Page

-Sunday Morning Bible Class-  
9:45 a.m.

"When The Church Was Young"  
(A Study of the Book of Acts)

-Wednesday Evening Bible Class-  
7:00 p.m.

"The One Word Bible Study"  
(Prayer Meeting This Wednesday)



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**Sandra Hogan** (friend of Roxie Bostick) hospitalized with multiple health issues

**Pat Wallace** (Norma Perkins aunt) fell and broke her hip and has been transferred to a re-hab facility.

**Emily Heflin** (Roxie Bostick's niece) diagnosed with COVID

**Bill Williams** (Janice Williams brother-in-law) is on a ventilator with pneumonia and was scheduled to start dialysis today due to low kidney function.

**Wayne Sims** is being scheduled for a biopsy to determine the status of his cancer.

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Roxie Bostick** , **Gene Bradshaw** , **Martha Jean Golden** , **Sue Hagler** , **Alice Hall** , **Ted and Joyce Holt** , **Debra Pate** , **Jerry Pate** , **Wayne Sims** , **Melvin Williams**

#### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

**Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother) **Leyton Bell** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) **Donna Boullion** (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) **Gil Boullion** (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **John Fincher** (Dale Fincher's uncle) **Keeth and Amanda Fontenot** (Debra Pate's son and daughter-in-law)) **Gayle Foster** (Cancer) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Melanie Hutzler** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) **Julia Keffer** (Bobbi Holder's mother) **Laurie King** (Co-worker of Mike O'brien,) cancer **Liam Martinez** (11 months old ) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues)) **Stephanie Richard** (friend of Norma Perkins) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother)

#### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

**Amanda Bradshaw** , **Leland Bradshaw** , **Michele Bradshaw** and **Lucas Tate**

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

\* \* \* \* \*

*An elderly woman was asked her secret for having so many friends. She said, "I am always careful to stop and taste my words before I let them pass my teeth."*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

When Saul was King of Israel, he became insanely jealous of David. Jealous to the point where he tried on several occasions to kill David. In I Samuel chapter 20, we read that it was the new moon, however David was going to be absent from his place at Saul's table. In verse 18 we read that Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty".

That is a concept that all of us are familiar with. In our homes, there are seats that are empty. Some have gone home to their eternal reward and we cherish their memory. Some seats are empty because some have done as did the younger son in Luke chapter 15 and left home. Still others are empty because of desertion. Whatever the cause, when seats are empty, it is a source of sadness.

Have you ever thought of the sadness it causes the Lord when the Saints of God gather for Worship and your seat is empty? There are some seats in the church that are empty because of death, yet the works and memories of faithful saints fill our lives. Some seats are empty because people have left the Lord and the story of the cross no longer has any effect on their life. Still others are empty because some folks just simply don't care. When the saints of God assemble for worship and your seat is empty, it suggests to those members who are present, "Why don't you stay away next Sunday, too!" Let's make sure our seat is filled on the Lord's Day.

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

**God's Plan of  
Evangelism....**

**Each one bring one!**