

# Let's Visit

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



Volume 7

Number 16

August 2, 2020

## Sermon Sleeping Sickness

A teacher in a fourth grade Bible class was trying to describe the death of Jesus. In a graphic manner, she told of the arrest and trial, the painful scourging, Jesus bearing his cross, and the actual crucifixion.

When the teacher had finished the story, she asked, "Are there any questions?" A little girl in the front row raised her hand and asked, "Teacher, did you know that my little dog was sick last night?"

Suppose at the end of the sermon each Sunday the preacher would ask for questions. He may learn that the questions that many of the adults would ask would be just as irrelevant to his sermons as the question of the child in the fourth grade.

Frequently during sermons minds wander. A mother may find herself deciding whether to bake or fry the potatoes for dinner, a father may be trying to decide whether to clean out the garage or go golfing on his next day off.

Usually when we find that we received little or nothing from a sermon we may remark, "The sermon was too theoretical." It could have been better prepared." "There was too much repetition." Too often we forget that all the sermon problems are not concerned with the speaker. The listener has his or her part to play. Here are four suggestions for sermon sleeping sickness.

1. Don't be afraid to become a student for a few minutes each Sunday. Sometimes adults become allergic to the role of a student. In our adult life there are times when we teach, but also times in which we listen and learn. We are not present at a sermon as a judge, nor as a critic, nor as a censor. We are present as a student who wishes to lean about God and our life with God. This requires humility.

2. Don't always expect new facts or additional knowledge from a sermon. Don't be too eager to

say, "I have heard that before. I know all about that subject." Remember there is a vast difference between knowledge and conviction. There is a difference between what we know and what we practice. Every sermon is not intended to teach us more facts but every sermon should intend to help us deepen our realization of some truth, and to help us to act in accordance with what we know.

3. Concentrate on the sermon. This can be difficult. Some people have a great difficulty concentrating. A story is told about a man who went to a doctor and said, "Doctor, I have a terrible problem. I can't keep my mind on any subject for any length of time." The doctor asked, "How long have you had this problem?" The patient replied, "What problem". When listening to a sermon we cannot become completely passive. We cannot issue a silent challenge to the speaker, "Just try to interest me.!" We must work with him. We should try to empty our minds of any distractions and try to concentrate on each idea expressed.

4. Make a personal application. The important factor here is that the application must be for ourselves and not for others. It is so simple to apply the sermon to the man or woman sitting on the pew in front of us. It is easy to apply it to that person sitting across the aisle. Jesus said, "Take heed how ye hear."

*-selected*

### 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

### **"Enjoy Life"**

Our text comes from I Thessalonians 5:17. Paul writes to those brethren and says, "rejoice evermore" (KJV). In the New Century version it reads, "Always be joyful". God wants us as His people to enjoy life!

## FOR THE PANTRY....

**Peanut Butter**

gospel sermon." A lesson on selfishness or kindness or giving as we have been prospered is endured but little appreciated.

At times a lesson on baptism or instrumental music is needed. But so is one that shows we may be baptized for the remission of sins and sing without the instrument and still not worship acceptably. A sermon about eating the Lord's Supper each Sunday is a gospel sermon, and so is one that shows that we may eat it each Sunday, every Sunday, and never really commune with Christ because of the condition of our heart.

There will always be the danger among Churches of Christ that some might desire to use the instrument in worship or eat the Lord's Supper on some day of the week other than the Lord's day. However, this is not the real danger. The real danger is that we will do all of the right things in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose. Beloved, we need "healthful teaching" in every field.

*tp*

## Sound Doctrine

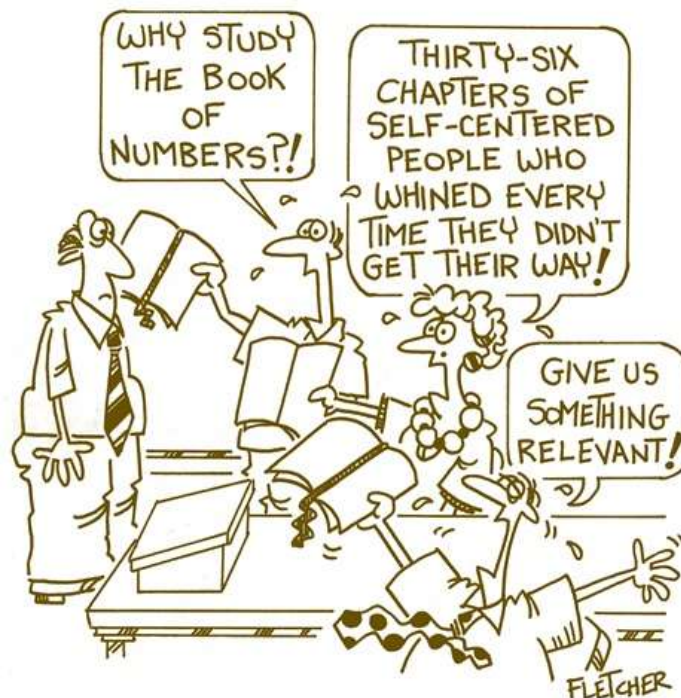
Paul wrote to young Timothy and urged him to preach the word, because "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (II Timothy 4:3) "Sound doctrine" is literally, "healthful teaching".

A soul may be healthy as well as a body (III John 2). It is made and kept healthy by healthful teaching. But, there seems to be a tendency to often equate sound doctrine with attacks on other religious groups, sermons on baptism, etc.

G. C. Brewer, a giant among preachers in another day related an incident early in his career that illustrates this point. He began a meeting with a series of sermons on the love and mercy of God, the sacrifice of Christ, and followed these lessons with one on baptism for the remission of sins. After that sermon, a brother said to him, "Well, I knew if we waited long enough you would finally get around to preaching the gospel." After lessons on God's love and mercy, and the saving blood of Christ, he finally got around to the gospel!

And so it is. A sermon on why we baptize for the remission of sins is a "good, old fashioned

## *On The Lighter Side.....*



# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

Daniel New (Kenley Dover's grandfather)  
Ronnie Stanfield Recovering from Knee Surgery.  
Tina Vaughn diagnosed with Bell's Palsy  
Jerry Pate recovering from knee surgery

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

LeLand Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

## “Bee...Wise”

Said a wise old bee at the close of day,  
“This colony business doesn’t pay.  
I put my honey in that old hive  
So others may eat and live and thrive.  
I do more work in a day, you see,  
Than some of the others do in three.  
I toil and worry and save and hoard,  
And all I get is my room and board.  
It’s me for a hive I can run myself,  
Me for the sweets of my hard earned self.”  
So the old bee flew to a meadow lone,  
And started a business all his own.  
He gave no thought to the buzzing clan,  
All intent on his selfish plan.  
He lived the life of a hermit free-  
“Ah, this is great,” said the wise old bee.  
But the summer waned, the days grew drear.  
The lone bee wailed as he dropped a tear,  
For the varmints gobbled his little store,  
His wax played out and his heart was sore,  
So he winged his way to the old home band,  
And took his meals at the Helping Hand.  
Alone, our work is of little worth;  
Together we are the lords of the earth;  
So it’s all for each and it’s each for all-  
United we stand, or divided we fall.

-copied

\* \* \* \* \*

*An operation is something it takes a doctor a few  
hours to perform and the patient years to describe.*

*Sign in an antique store: “Come in and buy what  
your grandmother threw away”.*

*Many church folks who should be “launching out  
into the deep” are still dabbling around in the  
wading pool.*



## September 13, 2020

Our annual “Friends and Family Day” is  
tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2020.  
Pray that we can have the worst of this  
pandemic behind us and have a wonderful time  
of Worship and Fellowship on that day!

## The Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s Supper as pictured in the New Testament was a very simple, but a very impressive and meaningful rite. No priestly intervention, no, not so much as a preacher was required. Baptized believers assembled “upon the first day of the week to break bread”, to sing and pray and “exhort one another.” This “communion” was observed for several purposes or reasons:

1. For spiritual nourishment, “Take eat” “Drink ye all of it.”
2. For a monument. “This do in remembrance of me.”
3. For a testimonial. “Ye do proclaim the Lord’s death”.
4. Announcing his coming. “Till the Lord come.”
5. Christian fellowship. “By being many are one bread and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread.”

The Lord’s table now points, always has and always will, three ways. It points to the past – do in remembrance; to the future – till he comes and inward – let each examine himself.

-selected



## Across The Preacher's Desk

During the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, one of the most popular religious writers was Norman Vincent Peale. He was most famous for his book, "The Power of Positive Thinking". Many today would not recognize his name, however, they would recognize the names of Max Lucado, Joel Osteen, John McArthur, Charles Swindoll and others.

The books written by these writers are quite popular and widely read. Yet, I remember reading the advice that an old preacher one time gave a young preacher when he said, "be careful young man that you don't find yourself some day reading more and more books about the Bible and reading the Bible less and less"

I wonder how much of that is going on in our world today. How many people are reading more and more of the writings of popular religious authors and reading less and less of the Bible.

Perhaps we should give consideration to spending more time in the reading of the word of God. How much time do we spend in reading the Bible? We might say we don't have time to read the Bible, and yet that is just one more of the many excuses we offer for not living God's kind of life. Friends, we find the time to do almost everything we really want to do. If we don't have time to spend in reading God's word, it's because we really do not have the desire to spend time studying the Bible.

When we offer some lame excuse for not reading and studying God's word, do we really think God is buying what we are selling?

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**