

Let's Visit

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Selling The Church

I was reading the other day about a man who went to see a preacher during the middle of the week, wanting to be baptized. He had become convinced that it was the right thing for him to do. Once he had learned and was convinced that was what he needed to do to be saved, he did not want to wait. When the preacher asked him what prompted this decision, the man quite frankly answered that his wife's family was primarily responsible for his decision. In fact, in talking with the preacher he used the expression, "they sold me on the idea". His wife had in fact told him that she did not want to influence him. He told her that whether she had wanted to or not, she had influenced him. What she really meant to say was that she wanted it to be entirely his decision, she did not want him to be baptized just for her or to satisfy or pacify her and he was fully aware of her meaning.

Did you notice that he said to the preacher, "they sold me on the idea"? Think about that statement. How many people have you sold on the idea of becoming a Christian? It is a given fact that we are selling folks one way or another every day with our lives. Christianity is something you either practice or you don't practice. There is no middle ground here. There is no way we can honestly say we are neither encouraging or discouraging others in the matter of becoming Christians. We are doing one or the other. Either our Christianity has not been outstanding enough to make an impression or we have made the wrong impression. Quite honestly, I cannot think of anything worse than being responsible for someone losing their soul. It is a positive tragedy when we invite someone to attend our services and they say, "*well, I have known (blank) all of my life and I know they are a member*

of the church of Christ and knowing the kind of person he/she is I am not interested in their brand of Christianity." This is something that will apply to all of us. We are either selling people on the Lord's church or we are turning them against it.

All of us have opportunities every day to bring others to Jesus Christ by applying the principles of Christianity and the teachings of Jesus to our everyday lives. People we work with and people we come in contact with should not have to ask if we are Christians. They should know it by the way we conduct ourselves. It makes no difference what our work or recreation is, we are influencing those we come in contact with. We are either influencing them for Jesus or against Jesus. We are either influencing them in favor of the Church or against the Church.

This good woman and her family "sold" her husband on the Lord and His church. Other good wives have sold their husbands. Good men have sold their wives. However we want to phrase it or look at it, all of us are salesmen or saleswomen for Jesus Christ. Now, here is the question for all of us to answer within our own hearts. By my life, by my actions, by the way I conduct myself, am I selling folks on the importance of Jesus Christ and the church or am I selling folks on the fact that Jesus Christ and the church are meaningless?

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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

"The Touch That Changed Her Life"

Our text comes from Luke 8:45. The chronically ill woman touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was made whole from that moment.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Tuna

"Do I take a gospel paper? Naw sir, I don't! I took one once, and it just laid around the house, and I never did have time to read it. Time I got all the newspapers and magazines read, it was time to go to bed, so I just didn't send em' any more money. I think I can get to heaven without a gospel paper anyhow."

"How much money have I given to the church? Now, just a minute, preacher, you can ask all the questions you want to, but when you ask me about my money, you've gone just a mite too far. It's none of your business how much I give to the Lord, and it's nobody else's business either. That's one thing I never do, go around bragging about how much I give, and when people ask me like you did, I ain't going to tell them. Just makes me glad I don't give anything. The very idea, askin' me if I was interested in heaven, and then trying to find out how much money I been givin' to the Lord!"

-Deacon Hornblower

Are You Interested In Heaven?

"What a question to ask me, preacher! Of course, I'm interested in heaven, anyone that believes the Bible is interested in heaven. That's the reason I was baptized by old brother Faithful over at Piney-Slab Holler back in..., well, I just don't remember the date, but I was baptized."

"What's that? Where am I going to church? Why, I go once in a while over to Antioch where brother Smoothit preached. You say he's been gone from there for three years and more? Well, now I didn't know it had been that long since I had gone to church. Course, now, I've been busy, and then I haven't been feelin' very well; and the weather hasn't been what it should have been. But, brother, I'm interested in heaven."

"Where does my family go to church? Why they don't go anywhere! You know how my wife is. Oh, you ain't never met my wife? Well, that woman just won't hear anything about the church, and wouldn't get the kids ready and take' em to Sunday School; and you know it's not a man's place to do that. I tell you, I just don't see how I've stayed interested in heaven and lived with that woman. I've put up with more from her than Dan ever put up with from his wife, Beer-Sheeba".

On The Lighter Side.....



HOW CAN YOU HAVE THE MONDAY BLUES
WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK AGAIN
UNTIL NEXT SUNDAY?

* * * * *

Tell the average man there are 270,000,000 stars in the universe and he will believe you. Put up a sign saying "fresh paint" and he will have to touch it and conduct his own investigation.

Miscellaneous



You have probably noticed the work going on with painting the exterior of our building. When the painting is completed, we will begin the process of replacing the roof on the flat roof portion of our building. Exciting things are happening!



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!



Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to **Dora Livingston** in the loss of her husband Bill Livingston. Services were conducted on Saturday at Watson and Sons.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you

What Are These Trials?

Sometimes the things against which we rebel most in life and look upon as obstacles and hindrances are the very things needed to develop our highest usefulness and efficiency.

We doubt not that if the diamond could express itself, it would against the grueling, burning contact of the polisher's wheel that grinds and polishes its several facets. Without the contact of the polisher's stone, the diamond has little commercial value. The swiftly revolving wheel cuts into its surface, and produces from a common appearing pebble, a gem of beauty and luster that is much admired and much sought after. There is no other way to produce a diamond except by grinding and polishing.

In the same degree, it is necessary to subject the human life to difficulties, adversity and discipline in order to bring out those qualities that will make it a life of value to its possessor, and of service to those about it. Many men and women who have achieved much in the world can look back to incidents in their lives which at the time were viewed as misfortunes.

-borrowed

A man suffering from insomnia asked a friend how he manages to sleep so well every night. "Do you count sheep?" he asked. "No", replied the friend, "I talk to the Shepherd."

The person who is bored when he is completely alone should be able to understand the position of others when he is around.

The first step to knowledge is to know that we are ignorant.

A sense of humor is what makes you laugh at something that would have made you mad if it had happened to you!



Across The Preacher's Desk

One of the great themes of the New Testament is the concept of individual spiritual growth. When Paul wrote the letter to the church in Corinth, it was a congregation beset with problems. There was a party spirit and the church was divided into factions. In chapter 3 he tells them he cannot write unto them as being spiritual because they are carnal. They are still babies spiritually. They have been fed with milk and not with meat because they cannot handle meat.

The Hebrew Christians are told in chapter 5 that they have reached the point they should be teachers. Yet, they haven't grown and need someone to teach them the first principles again. He says they have need of milk and not of strong meat. They are babies.

Peter comes along in I Peter chapter 2 and tells his readers to lay aside malice, guile, hypocrisies, envy and evil speaking. Instead, they are to desire the sincere milk of the word that they might grow spiritually.

Yet, that was Peter's first letter. In the second letter, as he brings it to a close there is a further instruction on growth. In chapter 3 and verse 18 he writes, "go on growing in grace" (Moffat). Now think about those words. There are a lot of people who are born again but never seem to progress much further than infancy. The reason is, that they soon learn to be a "spiritual couch potato".

You see, growing in Christ means hard work, commitment and dedication. Are you up to the task?

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**