

# Let's Visit

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## The Power of Love

When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Rome, he included some practical duties involved in living the Christian life. In fact, in chapter 12 and verses 20 and 21, we find these words; *“therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Of all the forces in the universe, love is the most powerful. It is more powerful than physical force or sarcasm. It is more powerful than “faking someone over the coals” with a stern rebuke and stronger than any argument.

We must realize that every emotion that we have, good or bad, reacts upon us. If we harbor hatred and bitterness in our heart, the individual we hate suffers as a result of our hatred. Yet, they do not suffer to the degree that we suffer. We cannot hurt our brother or sister without hurting ourselves. Hatred is toxic. It is a mental poison which destroys the finest qualities of the soul.

On the other side, the individual we love is blessed by our love. Yet, no matter how much we love, they are not blessed to the degree that we are blessed. We cannot offer aid and help to our fellow traveler on life's way without helping ourselves. Granted, sometimes our love may fail to touch the heart of our enemy, but it is never in vain. Love extended toward others purifies us, makes us more like God and makes us fit for heaven.

When others become aware of our love, happy results will follow. You see, love overcomes. It disarms the foe, hushes the cynic, and puts the enemy to shame. Whenever drastic methods fail as they always do, love wins. The wise man put it this

way in Proverbs 15:1; *“A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger.”*

While hatred drives people from us, love draws them to us and it binds them to us. Love is the cement, the bond. In Colossians chapter 2 and verse 2 Paul talks about Christians being *“knit together in love”* and then in chapter 3 and verse 14 he tells us love is the *“bond of perfectness”*. It is the element that preserves the unity of the people of God. Love brings out that which is noble and encouraging. Love makes life worth living.

When we have love in our hearts, it causes the great Spiritual Force in the universe to operate in our favor. Love reaches up from earth and takes hold of the throne of the Almighty and moves it. God takes up his abode in the loving heart and by deeds of love, the divine memory is refreshed. Listen to the words of the Hebrew writer in chapter 6 and verse 10; *“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister.”*

When our lives and our actions are motivated by love, life is sweeter, the circle of our influence is wider and we are more powerful. Jesus said that by our love for each other, all men would know we are His disciples.

*tp*

### 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

### “Knowing Jesus”

Our text comes from **Philippians 3:10**. Our world would be a much better place if more people knew Jesus Christ.

## FOR THE PANTRY....

Hot Cereal

## That's The Way It Is. . . .

It seems the preacher had just concluded a hot and scathing sermon on the sin of swearing and using foul language. Several times during the sermon he made the statement that he knew one of his hearers was guilty of this sin.

The services ended. The worshippers one by one filed out the door. The first to leave was a woman never suspected of using foul language. With a red and angry face she exclaimed, “I’ll never darken this door again!” Before the astonished preacher could recover from the blast another said, “Well preacher, if I had known you were close by last week, I would have been more careful of what I said.” A third said, “I think that you might at least have come to me privately about this rather than telling it to the whole church”. A fourth remarked, “I was never so embarrassed in all my life.”

Then came the real culprit—the one at whom the preacher had aimed all his remarks. The one the preacher had heard utter the oaths and profanity. With a bland and innocent smile, he grasped the hand of the preacher and said, “Brother, that was what I call a real sermon. You certainly did pour it on them today.”

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## How Do You Treat People?

*“But he willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor” (Luke 10:29)*

The lawyer had asked the question concerning what he should do to have eternal life, and Christ had told him to love God and to love his neighbor as himself. The implied lesson is that the lawyer did not love his neighbor, for he attempted to justify himself by asking the identity of his neighbor. To teach him the lesson he needed, Jesus taught the parable of the Good Samaritan. The priest and the Levite saw the man who had been beaten and robbed, but left him as he was. The Samaritan rendered assistance to the injured man and thereby showed himself to be a neighbor and also that he considered the man who needed his assistance his neighbor.

By our conduct, we demonstrate to others our consideration of them, just as the good Samaritan did in the case of the man who had been robbed. Had he passed by on the other side as did the priest and the Levite, he would have shown himself to be no different. So it is our treatment of those with whom we come in contact. Our actions and our words toward them and about them show the way that we consider them. Christianity is a religion that is to be manifested toward all, it makes no difference who it is. Even our enemies are to be prayed for, to be blessed, and are to receive from us those things that are good. It is Christ like to be humble, kind and forbearing. It is devilish to be any other way. Say, how do you treat people?

-Foster Ramsey

## On The Lighter Side. . . .



We are pleased to announce our NEW “Frequent Attender Program” Free Upgrades to “Aisle Seats” and complimentary “chocolate on the pillow treatment”.

# Miscellaneous



## TODAY IS THE DAY!

We are having our quarterly “Covered Dish Luncheon” and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February. We hope you are planning to stay. We will be practicing “social distancing” and we ask that you wear a mask while going through the serving line. We will have ladies who will serve your plates for you as we did at our last luncheon.

### 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

## Some Points To Ponder. . .

*Take a tip from nature – man’s ears aren’t made to shut – his mouth is!*

*The test of good manners is to be able to put up with bad ones.*

*We can never profit by our mistakes, as long as we blame others for them.*

*An unwise man is more concerned over the wrong he suffers than over the wrong that he does.*



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt’s great-great nephew) is suffering with severe headaches and taking IV medication. He is scheduled for an MRI.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Melissa Horton** (Joyce Holt’s great niece) who passed away this past Monday. Memorial services were held Friday in Baytown.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Javier Gonzales** (father of Norma Perkins’ co-worker) who passed away this past Tuesday.

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

**Roxie Bostick** (back issues); **Gene Bradshaw** (Pending surgery); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate’s grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Hudson Perkins** (Tim & Norma Perkins’ grandson) **Pat Tate** (Jana O’Brien’s mother, broken hip); **Charles Williams** (Janice Williams brother-in-law, COVID 19)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,  
Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

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

## Weary In Well Doing

An old fiddler once was walking through the woodland with his violin. Before he knew it he was surrounded by wolves. His only hope was his violin. He played and the wolves stood as if charmed. The night was cold and directly a string broke. He played until another broke and only one was left and he did the best he could on this. Finally it broke just as some hunters came up and rescued him.

Let us work till the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broke. Then the angels will come and bear us away to Abraham’s bosom. Snatched from death to life. Rescued from sin. “Be not weary in well-doing” (Galatians 6:9).

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*There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree.  
You can climb it or you can sit on an acorn.*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

It's been raining today (Wednesday), the sky is overcast and perhaps that is what made me think of this. I remember as a small boy (pretty good memory eh?) watching a country music show on television called "Jones Junction". They always closed the program with the same song. While I do not remember all of the words, I do remember it said, "Let a smile be your umbrella on a rainy, rainy day." Perhaps something akin to that is what the apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote the words, "Rejoice evermore" in I Thessalonians 5:16.

Of all people upon the earth, Christians have greater reason for happiness than anyone else. Christians are promised the more abundant life here upon the earth, and everlasting life in eternity. Shouldn't that be a cause of happiness? If the Christian life is the happy life that it is pictured to be, then as Christians we have the obligation of showing the world that we are happy.

Why not wear a smile? Why not let a smile be your umbrella? If you are a Christian, your face should show your happiness by having a smile to greet those you meet. A smile is a token of friendliness because it denotes a pleasing personality. Wear a smile instead of a frown and show the joys of the Christian life!

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**