

Let's Visit

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Choosing To Be Positive

When Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthian Christians, he penned these words; *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed but not in despair; Persecuted but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."* (II Corinthians 4:8) The apostle is telling those brethren, things are tough, but our faith is strong and we realize that we shall be victorious.

One of the things we are commanded to do as Christians is to grow spiritually. In order for us to grow spiritually, we must have a high self-esteem and we must maintain a positive attitude.

There is nothing more dangerous and detrimental to the forward progress of the people of God than a negative attitude. We see a dramatic illustration of this truth in the example of the 12 spies recorded for us in Numbers 13. The negative attitude of the majority, the ten spies, served to discourage all of Israel. Their attitude of we can't do it led to Israel complaining and rebelling against God. They were still swimming in the shallow waters of faith. They were like many in the church of the 21st century. Those who are still wading in the "kiddie pool" of faith when they should be swimming in the deep waters of faith. Well, the result of their negativity was that an entire generation had to pass away before Israel was allowed to enter the Promised Land.

We must not allow negative attitudes to develop. We must not allow negative thinking to influence the body of Christ. When we allow negative attitudes to develop, we stop believing in God and ourselves. We stop trying to do what God wants us to do. We decide there is no point in inviting others to come for "Friends and Family Day", there is no reason to ask someone to attend "Pack-A-Pew Sunday" and certainly we could not expect someone to attend a singing or Gospel Meeting. After all, why invite them, they won't come anyway. We decide there is

no point in planning for growth because that's not going to happen either. Negative people can give you all kinds of reasons why something cannot be done, and yet seldom, if ever are they found with their shirt sleeve rolled up ready to do the work. When we have a negative attitude, we discourage those around us and we fail to reach the goals God has placed before us.

There is nothing so valuable as a positive attitude in the work of the Lord. Look at the story of Nehemiah. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem seemed a daunting task. Yet, the work was accomplished because the people had a mind to work. This mind to work helped them to overcome the ridicule of their enemies. It helped them to overcome the "naysayers" and negative attitudes. They were able to rebuild the walls.

A positive attitude causes us to continue to believe in God. We believe in our ability to serve Him. We keep trying to do what God wants us to do. With a positive attitude we encourage those around us and overcome those who would discourage us. You know the type, those who either need to lead, follow or get out of the way. When we maintain a positive attitude, we ultimately reach the goals God has placed before us.]

Yet, we know maintaining a positive attitude is not the easiest thing to accomplish. We must choose to be positive. Contrary to popular belief, we can control our attitude and our moods. We may not be able to control or change the circumstances around

(Continued on page 2)

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

"He Brought Him To Jesus"

Our text comes from John 1:30-42. After Andrew came in contact with Jesus, he found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus..

However, we should at the same time seek to be positive. We should make sure we are not the ones who are always looking at the "bad" in people and situations. Make sure we are not the ones who are always finding fault and carping and complaining. Through faith in God, we can choose to be positive. Through faith in God, we can block out toxic negativity and go forward and do great things in the Lord's work. The choice is ours to make.

tp

Each One Bring One!

53 in '23

Invite Someone Each Week!

For The Pantry. . .

February 19 – Tuna

On The Lighter Side. . .

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around us, yet, we can control how we react to those circumstances. We can choose to rejoice when times are hard. James tells us count it joy when we fall into various temptations because the trying of our faith will work patience. We need to keep the words of Paul in Romans 8:28 ever before our eyes. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

We must block out negativity and avoid such talk as "I can't" or "It's too hard". In fact, those kind of phrases should be removed from our vocabulary altogether. We must remind ourselves we can do what God wants and our labor in the Lord will not be in vain. We must choose our friends carefully and avoid negative people. If we fail to stay away from negative, toxic people, we will ultimately join the fellowship of the miserable and killers of the dream.

We must surround ourselves with positive people. People who encourage us. People who refresh our spirit and are like Barnabas, the "Son of Encouragement".



**NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING,
DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR
INVITATIONAL HYMN**

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Mike O'Brien is recovering from eye surgery.

Johnny Miller (Betty Miller's son) is scheduled for heart surgery on Monday in Longview.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Louise Johnson, Lisa Miller, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Minion Bean-(Mike O'Brien's mother) recovering from a fall and hip surgery), Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Ron Cone (Laura Miller's dad), Celina Danley (Sister of Joyce Danley) multiple health issues, Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Sandra Fuller (friend of Betty Miller) Roy Garcia (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins recovering from brain surgery) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Suzanne Ihlo (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Reba Miley (friend of Debra Pate) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; J. C. and Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother and father) Calvin Turner (recovering from back surgery) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Jeremiah Soape, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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



SAVE THESE DATES!

April 21st, 22nd and 23rd

Phil Sanders
is coming back to Center!

Area Wide Singing on Friday Night.
Preaching on Saturday night
Refreshments following the singing and
Covered Dish Luncheon following the
Sunday Services.

Put This On Your Calendar.....



March 5, 2023

This is our next "Covered Dish Luncheon" when we have "Pack A Pew Sunday" and will celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries for March, April and May.

Make your plans to be here and invite others to come and help you pack your pew!

HOSPITALITY GROUP

Hospitality group 1 will be in charge of the luncheon on Pack-A-Pew Sunday, March 5th. The members of this group are:

Marshal Bounds
Melonie Molloy
Lisa Miller
Betty Miller
LaResa Livingston

If you are not a part of this group, you get a "day off" from having to serve or clean up after this luncheon.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL – Our next Wednesday night meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to our evening services will be February 22, 2023.

Make your plans now to be here!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Is the message of the cross current? What message is there for men and women of the 21st century? Can the events on a hill so long ago affect us now? Can the death of one man by crucifixion affect men and women when thousands can now be killed with one bomb? The answer is yes. Yes the message of the cross is current and relevant. There are two short words in John's Gospel (John 19:28) that show us how current this message is. Those words are when Jesus says, "I thirst".

Jesus said, "I thirst" because Jesus died as a man. John's primary purpose was to show the deity of Jesus but in this passage he shows us the humanity of Jesus. Jesus came to feel what we feel and to know our needs. The human race had sinned and must die.

The fact that Jesus experienced that painful thirst brings new meaning to other passages. Even in our day and age with all its advancements, with cell phones and the internet and supersonic plane travel, people still die without God.

Jesus knows our pain and our temptations. He knows the deep waters we pass through and he knows the storms that blow through our lives. Yet, through obedience to Jesus' commands and living His kind of life, the storms can be calmed and our thirst can be quenched. What we must do is surrender our stubborn human will to the will of Jesus. We must make Jesus Christ the Lord and Master of our lives.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
53 in '23!**