



LET'S VISIT

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BEARING FRUIT

In the Gospel according to John, chapter 15 and verse 8, Jesus says, "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." As we begin this new year in the service of the Lord in Center, Texas, it should be our earnest desire to glorify God by bearing fruit. When we ponder those words of Jesus, the thought comes to mind of what a child is worth to his or her parents. Where does the joy come from children? In the minds of most people the real joy that parents get from their children is watching their children make a success of this thing called life. Never do you hear a father say regarding a son who has failed, that he is a "chip off the old block". But let him succeed in any worthy undertaking and listen to the tune his father plays. Guess what. This is natural.

We are that much like God. He has always been proud of his children, but his feelings have always come because of their loyalty to Him. He said to Satan concerning Job, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there are none like him in all the land?" This is an expression from the heart of a father who is proud of His son. Now notice if this is not the main thought of our text. How is God glorified? When we bear much fruit. More than that, we are not true disciples of Christ unless we do. Not only bear fruit, but bear much fruit. How much fruit does God expect us to bear? He gave us an illustration in his parables. From those who had much he required much. The man who had five talents was expected to use what he had just as the man who had two talents and the man who had one talent. However, the man who had one talent failed to use what he had and was condemned. God requires as much as we are able to do. When we do our best for Him, God is pleased. In that way and in

that way only do we glorify Him. Conversely, when we fail to do our best in His service, when we are more concerned with self than with the things of God, then God is not pleased with us.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, Jesus gives us a picture of some things that will happen at the judgment. Some seemed to be surprised because they had rendered service, but He did not recognize them. He told them definitely how service was afforded to Him. You cannot separate serving Christ and serving His cause in the world. His cause is His church, or His people. Hence, we serve Christ when we provide service to the cause he represents. What is true here is also true concerning glorifying God or bearing fruit for God. We bear fruit when we do good for His cause in the world. We bear fruit for Him when we convert souls. We bear fruit when we assist His little ones. We bear fruit for Him when we build up His church. We bear fruit when we are faithful in our attendance at the services of the church, thereby showing with our example the importance of the church and the things of God. Any good thing we do for the Master will result in fruit bearing. In this way he is glorified.

Is God glorified by the life you live? Are others led to Christ because of the way you live? Does your life and example strengthen those who are weak or does it make them weaker? Is God glorified on the

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 -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



Finding Joy In Your Religion

**For The Pantry. . .
February 23 – Dried Pasta**

Offering – February 16, 2025 . . \$ 2,511.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Bearing Fruit– continued from page 1

earth through the program of His church? Are we a living demonstration of the presence of God? Do people of the world realize that God dwells with us, or do they think we are playing at dwelling with God? Would God be pleased for the world to know that we are His children? Is God glorified in our fruit bearing? The answer to these questions need not remain a mystery. You see, we have the answer if we will only face it. What we have been for God, and what we have done for God are the things that will answer our question. If God is not proud of us as His sons and daughters, it is not because he could not have been. We can be as faithful as anyone. God has not granted others favors that he has not granted us. We have everything that is necessary to glorify God upon the earth, if we will only use our ability to glorify God, instead of using it to glorify self. Herein is God glorified, that ye bear much fruit. Are you?

tp

Almost Religion

There is a religion which is too sincere for hypocrisy, but too transient to be profitable, too superficial to reach the heart, too unproductive to proceed from it. It is slight, but, as far as it goes, not false. It has discernment enough to distinguish sin

but not firmness enough to oppose it, conviction sufficient to soften the heart, but not vigor enough to reform it. It laments when it has done wrong and performs all the functions of repentance for sin, except forsaking it. It gives nothing to religion but the heart. This is a religion of times and events and circumstances. It is brought into exercise by incidents or accidents, and dwindles away with the occasion that called it out. Festivals or fasts which occur but seldom are much observed, and it is to be feared because they occur but seldom; while Sunday, the great day which occurs weekly, comes too often to be treated with respect and reverence. The piety of people whose religion is of this kind comes out much in sickness, but is apt to retreat again when recovery approaches. If they die, they are placed by their admirers in the calendar of the saints; if they recover they place themselves with the world they had renounced again to love it while health continues and again to suspend their amendment as often as death suspends his blow.

-selected

On The Lighter Side. . .



WE'VE ALREADY HEARD THIS ONE

If the church does not miss you when you remain away from the services, it is a far worse commentary upon you than upon the church. The fact that you are not missed is more likely to be due not to others lack of appreciation, but rather to your lack of faithfulness.

-copied, Just a moment



Sunday March 2nd

Make your plans to be here, bring a guest and let's have a great day to the glory of God!

Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of the luncheon that day. The members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

If you need help bringing your food into the building, there will be someone in the Fellowship hall to help you beginning about 9:30. The fellowship hall will be open until 10:40, but at 10:40 the outside door will be locked.

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Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

This coming Wednesday, February 26th we will be having our monthly Wednesday Fellowship Meal. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing together.

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Area-Wide Singing February 28, 2025

There will be an area-wide singing on Friday, February 28, 2025 at the San Augustine Church of Christ beginning at 7:00 p.m.



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

March 2, 2025 – "Pack-A-Pew Sunday"

April 25-27, 2025 – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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There is one thing to be said for ignorance It causes a lot of interesting arguments!

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

Tolerance is sometimes only a suspicion that the other fellow might be right.



Across The Preacher's Desk

If someone asked you what you are living for, how would you answer that question? For most people, the answer depends on what is most important in their lives. An avid fisherman might tell you they are living for the opportunity to win that one big fishing contest while a golfer might tell you they are looking forward to winning just one more tournament. Yet, when we turn to the New Testament we find Paul telling us "for me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21)

Have you ever thought about what that statement means? What does it mean to say "for me to live is Christ"? It means that we never forget the cross and all that Jesus did and suffered for us. It means that we never forget the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. Everyone feels the presence of Jesus at some special moment in life. Everyone feels him near during the time of worship. But when he is the focus of our lives, then morning, noon and night, we are conscious of the presence of our Lord and what He means to us. It means that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Master of my life. Not just part of my life but all of my life. It means that my heart's desire is to be pleasing to the Lord and someday enjoy Heaven with all of its beauty and glory.

Can you say with Paul, "for me to live is Christ"?

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**