



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
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HE DIDN'T INTEND TO...

He died suddenly with no warning at all. He had no time to right his wrongs or to get ready to die. "Heart attack," they said. Two men were talking about him. One was an old school mate. They attended one of the schools operated by members of the Churches of Christ. The man doing the talking is an elder in the church. He told how his school mate drifted away. He was a medical student and made good in his chosen profession. However, he allowed his business, and the demands other people made on him to cause him to neglect the Lord. He had no intention of quitting the church, his friend said. He never dreamed that some day he would not attend any service, and that he would die unfaithful. But it happened. It has happened before, and will perhaps happen again, because some people will not heed the warnings given. Once we get started on the wrong road, it is difficult to ever be right again. Many never overcome that difficulty.

Most people who leave the Lord never intended to become unfaithful. We have no intention of reaping what we sow. But that is as much as the devil wants. If he can keep us doing wrong while we intend to do right, he can keep us under his control. Few of the bitter things that enter our lives would have ever come had we only realized how difficult it is to turn back once we start in the wrong direction.

One person never intended to become a drunkard. Yet, we find in the bible that no drunkard can enter the kingdom of heaven. To be sure, no one in their right mind would want to make of themselves someone who could not go to heaven. So, we hear someone say there is a difference in taking an occasional "social drink" and becoming a drunkard. So they take a few drinks. They only intend to be "sociable". Their friends want them to do it and surely there is no harm in a little drink now and then.

But, drinking will grow on you. Usually one drink will call for another. That is the way drunkards are made. No person intends to make a drunkard out of himself or herself, but many do it because they cannot see the end from the beginning and will not listen to those who have gone that way.

Someone else never intended to break up their home. Their attentions to others was only for a thrill. Really, they loved their family, they thought, but they noticed someone else was giving them some attention. It worked on their ego. The sad results fill the world today.

Then there is the one who never intended to become a gambler. They had no intention of losing all they had and going into debt. But they wanted to make a little bet on the horses or some ball game. They made the bet, and might have won a little at the beginning. Then, they began to lose. They doubled their bets in order to overcome their losses so they could get even and quit. That time never came and they became a compulsive gambler, losing all they had and all their family needed.

This story could go on indefinitely. It would deal with every weakness of the human flesh. People have no intention of allowing themselves to be overcome with evil, and yet they do just that. It may be they have a desire to prove that one can company

(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



The Failure who Made Good

**For The Pantry. . .
February 25 – Dried Beans**

He Didn't Intend To. . . – continued from page 1

with the devil now and then and get by with it. Those who failed just did not know how. But the story always has a sad and tragic ending. In the end, the Lord is forgotten, things worth most to us are lost, self respect is gone and hell stares us in the face. When will men and women learn that they cannot mock God. *“Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”.* (Galatians 6:7)

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Offering – February 18, 2024. \$1,601.00

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

Let The Bible Be Your Guide!

Some people form their own opinions of what is right and what is wrong independently of the Bible. In other words, they usurp the authority that God has reserved unto Himself, and in so doing they completely abolish the use of the Scripture to direct their lives.

There are others who select separated and unrelated parts of the Bible in an effort to make God's Word harmonize with their own ideas and desires, ignoring the fact that if they discard a part of the Bible they discard it all.

Then, there are those who proudly claim that all of their family have usually been members of a certain church, and consider this sufficient reason

for their affiliation with the same. This is a sort of a Chinese ancestral worship. In fact, what their family has done is more important to them than what God says to do.

And there is still another class who pay their preacher to do their Bible reading for them, and blindly accept all that he says as Gospel truth. When you consider there are more than three hundred recognized religious denominations in America, and that no two of them are in entire agreement, you may well ask who is right and whose word shall I take?

The solution is to cast aside all prejudice; learn how to rightly divide the Word of God; study it reverently; consider it prayerfully; and thus let God decide the question for you.

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On The Lighter Side. . .

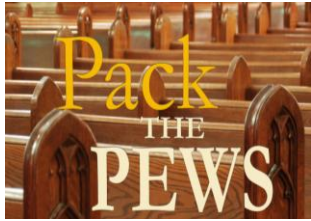


***The Church has developed a stimulus
plan to combat moral bankruptcy.
We call it “Bible Study”.***

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***If you have succeeded in putting one truth into
circulation, or demolishing one falsehood, you
have done a good day's work.***

***Many a man has made a failure in life by
determining to have his own way.***



Pack-A-Pew Sunday

March 3, 2024

Make your plans now to be here for “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”, March 3, 2024. We will have a covered dish luncheon, we will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for March, April and May and have an enjoyable time of fellowship. Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. Those members are Dee Sims, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Bradshaw, Sheri Burgay and Trish Lout.

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Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal February 28, 2024



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AREA WIDE SINGING!

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 26, 2024. We will be hosting an Area Wide Singing. Make your plans to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to come and plan to stay for a time of fellowship after the singing.

54 in 24
Invite Someone Each Week!

OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

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

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston’s nephew) **Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston’s brother), **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher’s brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate’s mother) **Gail Foster** (Cancer) **Bobbie Gray** (Jerry Pate’s Aunt) **Geneva Harrison** (Mike Bostick’s mother) **Glynn Hartt** (friend of Cissy Amos) **Joe Hughes** (Cissy Amos’ father) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins’ mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Vervan Pate** (Jerry Pate’s brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. **Stephanie Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; **Traci Roden** (friend of Norma Perkins) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate’s uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate’s cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **Buddy Sowell** (friend of Debra Pate) **Suellen Swank** (friend of Norma Perkins) **J. C. Tate** (Jana O’Brien’s father) **Clark Paul Williams** (LaResa Livingston’s cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

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

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UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

April 26, 2024 – Area Wide Singing
May 19, 2024 (tentative) –Covered Dish Luncheon
September 8, 2024 – Friends & Family Day
December 8, 2024 – No Excuse Sunday
December 15, 2024 – Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Recorded in Matthew chapters 5 through 7 we find what we commonly refer to as "The Sermon On The Mount". As a part of that sermon, Jesus tells his followers that they are the salt of the earth. He tells that audience in the long ago and us today of the influence that His followers are to have on the world around them. Jesus tells them and speaks to us today to say that Christian character is to be a positive force in this world.

However, sometimes we misunderstand the role that we play in being the salt of the earth. Do you remember the words of Job in Job 6:6? He said, "Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?" Yet, for salt to have any effect on "unsavory food" it must come in contact with that food. It cannot just sit in the salt shaker on the table.

Salt does its work by being brought into close contact with the food it is to season. God's people cannot influence men and women for good by withdrawing themselves from all contact with the world. It is the Lord's will that his people be scattered throughout the world so that their influence might be felt in all walks of life. Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. However, we must always remember that we are to be in the world but not of the world.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**