

Let's Visit

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Repentance!

I read a statement not long ago that I found quite interesting. It was, "Too often, repentance is only deep enough to last until the next temptation." When you read a statement like that, especially after you have learned a little about human nature, many illustrations come to mind to prove the point. Have you ever wondered how much genuine repentance there really is in the world? In the majority of cases where we find repentance mentioned in the Bible it applies directly to God's children, and yet, we don't find a lot of repenting going on among the people of God. We are good at calling on the world to repent, but making a personal application is another matter. Seldom is there a sermon preached without calling on sinners to repent. Unless they repent they will perish, but how often do we call on members of the church to repent? No doubt there are many who would be insulted at the idea. Those are the ones who usually know the least of repentance.

A man told me of a meeting one time that some brethren had that was not a pleasant meeting. A long discussion was had about the differences that existed. After much talk, many tears and numerous prayers, it was decided to let bygones be bygones and "bury the hatchet". One of the number, who had been responsible for most of the trouble, and who had perhaps shed more tears than anybody, and who prayed the loudest that they all repent, started things again by sunup the next morning, and did not stop short of dividing asunder a congregation of the Lord's people. This is, no doubt, what that statement meant, "repentance often lasts only until the next temptation". That man did not repent. He merely used his tears, his prayers and his loud crying about the necessity of love and repentance for a

smoke screen until such time as he could "get in closer where he could hit the bulls eye".

I once read of a certain member of the church who was "restored" every year when the congregation he was a member of had their "spring meeting". The same preacher happened to go to this place every year for several years and each time he went the man would respond during the invitation song to be "restored". The preacher who held the meetings eventually saw that the man did not really repent. One year the man came forward saying he was sorry for his sins and that he was repenting. The preacher told him he was lying about the matter and to go back to his seat. This caused the man to wake up to his own weakness and he genuinely repented. It was not necessary to restore him the following year.

I am afraid sometimes we have come to think of repentance as the mere asking for forgiveness. That is not repentance at all. Surely we must ask for forgiveness, but we must also repent. To repent means to turn from sin. Neither of the two cases mentioned above truly repented so long as they continued to commit the same sins. We do not repent today if we merely ask for forgiveness and then turn back into sin when another temptation comes along. Loud crying and much speaking does

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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

Defeating God's Purposes

We often find our stubborn
will in opposition to the Will
of God.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Hamburger Helper

Repentance – continued from page 1

not mean repentance. One who repents turns from sin. If he has been lying, he stops lying. If he has been gossiping, he stops it. If he has not been faithful to the church, he starts being faithful. He is not repenting when he is trying to make a pious appearance before the people, crying much about love and repentance while at the same time promoting strife and a lack of love among the people of God. Repentance that saves must be deep enough to cause one to turn from sin and to build up a resistance against the temptation that led him astray. Truly God's children need to learn more of repentance, and to also put it into practice. Repentance means being sorry enough to quit!

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What Are You Worth?

When we ask the question, we are not interested in the amount of money in your possession, instead we have in mind your value to the church. What are you worth to the church of the Lord? Of how much value are to the work of the Lord which the church is doing? If you should move away from where you now live, to another community, would any work of the church stop; would someone else find it

necessary to do the work that you had been doing; would you be missed from the church? Your value to the church depends on your own dependability and regularity. Can you be depended upon to be at every service of the church? Can you be depended upon to do whatever you are asked to do? Too many members can be depended upon to offer an excuse when asked to do something that is entirely within their ability. Too many members can be depended upon to be absent from certain services of the church. They never attend Sunday School, evening services or mid-week services. If all the members of the church did as they do, the meeting house would be locked up with the exception of a little over an hour on Sunday morning.

The overall value of the individual members governs the value of the church to the Lord and to the community in which it has its location. Consequently, the first duty of the Christian is to the church of the community in which he lives. The member who goes to Podunk one Sunday, to Turkey Pen Holler the next Sunday, to Possum Flat the next Sunday, to Antioch the next Sunday, and works the next Sunday is of little or no value to the church of the community in which he lives. What are you worth to the church where you live?

-Foster Ramsey

On The Lighter Side.....



PARDON ME SIR ... WE ARE JUST A FEW
MINUTES OUT FROM THE BENEDICTION AND
I NEED YOU TO RETURN YOUR PEW TO ITS
FULL, UPRIGHT POSITION

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Men's Business Meeting - There will be a men's business meeting this afternoon at 3:30 in the church office. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

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Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Willaims, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams' son) **Tim Bartlett** (friend of Betty Miller) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Leslie Bradshaw** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Bethany Bridges** (Debra Pate's friend), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Marcus Cruz Cranford** (Sue Hagler's-great-great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in law) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Mason Matchette** (3 year old injured in 4 wheeler accident) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **George McNatt** (Dale Findher's neighbor) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate)



Old Fashioned Gospel Singing

February 28, 2020
7:00 P.M.

San Augustine Church of Christ
San Augustine, Texas

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Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday

March 1, 2020

Make your plans to be here and bring a friend



The ladies serving on the Hospitality Committee for this dinner are: Martha Bradshaw, Betty Miller, Alda Yarbrough and Debra Pate. Thank you ladies for your willingness to serve, you are appreciated more than you know.

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Tanya Johnson** (Alda Yarbrough's sister-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Teresa Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**, **Amanda Bradshaw** and **Andrew Bradshaw** (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 24th - 26th 2020

Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting

Austin Wiggins – Guest Speaker
Pulpit Minister – Vidor Church of Christ

Remember our Sunday Afternoon Class
5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Make your plans to be here!



Across The Preacher's Desk

According to the teachings of Jesus, every person is going through one of two gates. Either they are choosing to enter the narrow gate and the narrow way or they are choosing the broad way which leads through the broad gate.

Of course, these two ideas represent two ways of life. One represents the way of good while the other represents the way of evil. The thought taught by Jesus in Matthew 7 is that more people will follow the easy, popular way of life than the one prescribed in the scriptures.

This teaching is harmonious with another of the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 22:14. Here he says, "For many shall be called, but few chosen." That indicates that there will be only a few people comparatively speaking, who are interested in the Lord's way enough to follow it and be saved. Jesus makes his call this way, "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Jesus is warning folks to be careful how they live. Too many people, who might think they are on the narrow path, might be surprised to find themselves on the broad way if they take a hard look at the kind of life they are living. Jesus wants everyone to be saved, but He must have their cooperation in living His kind of life, and living it his way. Are you living for Jesus?

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**