

Let's Visit

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A Nation That Has Forgotten God

The Psalmist would write in Psalm 33:12, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"*. Tragically, that statement cannot apply to the United States of America at this point in time. You see, as a nation, have lost our way. Many people have long referred to the United States as a "Christian Nation". In the strictest sense of that term, that the majority of her citizens were baptized believers, we have never been a "Christian Nation". However, in the sense that we had our foundation in Judeo-Christian principles we were a Christian Nation.

Over the past half century (give or take a few years) there has been a systematic effort to remove the influence of the God of Heaven, (referred to in our founding documents as the creator) from our society. Some were "offended" by prayer in schools, so the courts declared it unconstitutional. Some were offended by having either stone tablets or written plaques of "The Ten Commandments" in public places and on public land so the courts declared this to be unconstitutional and they were ordered removed. You could no longer have nativity scenes in the public square, "Merry Christmas" became offensive and you had to say "Happy Holidays". It even became controversial to have a "Christmas Tree" in the public square or public buildings. Every year, it seemed that the list of things that even remotely referenced God which were offensive grew larger and larger. There was no end to the things that some people found "offensive".

Then, there came those who advocated the murder of babies in the womb. They sanitized it by calling it "a woman's right to choose" and calling it "abortion" but it was still taking the life of an unborn child while it was still in the womb. It was still murder. You see, when you are in the ER and the

monitor flat-lines and your heart stops beating, the medical professionals declare you are dead. By that same logic, if you can hear and detect a heartbeat, that must indicate life. Therefore, to "abort" a baby in the womb when you can hear the heart beat, you have taken a life. I know, some reading this will think I am being over-simplistic. However, I am just a simple country preacher and in my judgment, taking the life of a baby in the womb is still murder, no matter what language or terminology you choose to use in sanitizing it.

Now, over the past few years, perhaps the past 20 years or so, the trend has been to demonize, belittle and ridicule those who have a difference of opinion with you. Did it start with Hillary Clinton? Did it start with Barak Obama? Did it start with Donald Trump? No, it started long before they became prominent national figures. It started in the hearts of the American people many years ago. It started when we began to allow a loud, vocal minority to dictate that we should remove God from our national conscience and become a secular society. It started when we began the process of going away from core values rooted in Judeo-Christian principles. We are now witnessing some of the worst that man is capable of doing to man, and it is coming from both DEMOCRATS and REPUBLICANS.

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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

“Love’s Final Appeal”

Our text comes from Mark 12:6-9. There is a parable there that portrays for us the love of God and Jesus as God’s final appeal to mankind.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Spam

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There are thugs and lowlives who support Democratic candidates and the goals of the Democratic Party. Does that mean that all Democrats are thugs and lowlives? No. I have some dear friends, good people, who are Democrats. I think their politics are misguided but I still think they are fundamentally good people and consider them friends. I also have friends that support A & M Football and OU Football but I still love them!

Conversely, there are some thugs and lowlives who support Republican candidates and the goals of the Republican Party. Does that mean that all Republicans are thugs and lowlives? No. Though I am not officially a Republican, the goals and ideals of the Republican Party for the most part align with my personal beliefs more than those of the Democratic Party. However, I don't think anyone would consider me a thug or lowlife.

Well, somehow we must fix the blame for this division in America. The Democrats and Main Stream Media will loudly tell you it's Donald Trump's fault. Republicans and Conservative Media will just as loudly proclaim "It's Barak Obama's fault". The time has come to stop the finger pointing. The time has come to stop painting all Liberals (progressives) and Conservatives with such a broad brush and in such derogatory terminology.

The time has come for you and I to realize that WE are the problem. The time has come for us to return to the Judeo-Christian principles our nation was founded upon. The time has come to realize Jesus meant what He said in Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things, whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" We need to start that NOW! Truth be told, I haven't seen a lot of that attitude exhibited in recent years in politics, business, the media, on social media or in daily life. It's time for America to return to God, and that means individually, each of us. The time to start is today.

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On The Lighter Side....



Our “Growth Consultant” thinks the term “Church” sounds outdated.

Now, think on this. . . .

*Reading the fine print may give you an education
– not reading it will give you experience.*

We don't need cheaper houses, cars, clothing and food. We prefer more expensive items for less money.

A grouch is a fellow who has sized himself up and then is sore about it.

Miscellaneous



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Covered Dish Luncheon
Make your plans to be here!



Those To Remember In Prayer

Gene Bradshaw is recovering from surgery this past Wednesday to correct a Thyroid condition.

Betty Miller spent a big part of Monday evening at the ER with chest pains. It was determined that it was not cardiac related nor Covid 19 related.

Steve Wiggins had surgery on Tuesday to repair a broken leg. He now has additional hardware in his leg and is recovering nicely.

We extend our sympathy to **Trish and Mike Lout** along with Tiffanne and the rest of the family in the sudden passing of Juston Lout. His services are scheduled for Tuesday at 2:00 at Mangum Funeral home with visitation from 12 noon until the time of the service.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Dale Reed**. Dale passed away on Monday from Covid. He was a friend of Mike and Roxie Bostick.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues) **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Foy Metcalf** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip);

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.

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

"Unprofitable Servants"

"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded of you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10)

God has given us commands that he expects us to obey. These commands are found in the gospel of Christ and they set forth the conditions by which the Lord will give life everlasting as the reward to the faithful. To teach that we are not expected to be obedient to his commands is to encourage disobedience to the laws of God. This was exactly the course which was pursued in the garden of Eden when the devil encouraged Eve to pay no attention to the law of God which forbade the eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, the proper adjective with which to describe encouragement to disregard the commands of God is the word "devilish".

After we have obeyed all those things that we are commanded to do, we still cannot say that we have earned everlasting life, or that God owes us eternal life for what we have done. We must still confess that we are unprofitable servants, we have merely done that which was our duty to do. Solomon said in the Jewish dispensation, "Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man." It was the duty of men even then, to obey the laws of God. The Jews were not promised everlasting life even though they obeyed God's commandments. When we do our duty in obeying the conditions of salvation, we have merely gained the grace or favor of God, without which no one will be saved.

-Just A Moment



Across The Preacher's Desk

In the "Sermon On The Mount", Jesus tells us to "let our light shine before men" and he also tells us that we are "the salt of the earth". What He means, of course, is that we are to live our lives in such a way that we bring honor and glory to Him and honor and glory to the church. Yet, I often wonder how well we are doing at that.

When we lose our temper in the store and "explode" on some clerk or manager, does that reflect well on Jesus and the church? Those times when we are engaging in idle gossip, whether listening to it or repeating it, does that bring honor and glory to Jesus and the church? Obviously, there are many things we can do that bring shame to Jesus and the church.

Well, the, we can hand out more tracts, we can set up more Bible Studies, we can invite more people to church, that will honor Jesus. Wait, I know, we can take meals to shut-ins and sick people. To be sure, there are numerous good works we can be involved in that will reflect well on the church and bring honor to Jesus.

However, when all is said and done, Jesus gave us the supreme way we can bring honor and glory to Him and to the church. In John 13:35, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." There it is, short, sweet and simple. If we want to bring honor and glory to Jesus and the Church, we are to love one another. We are to love as Jesus loved. How are we doing with that?

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**