

# Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ  
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 7

Number 2

January 12, 2020

## 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, the God is not pleased with us.

In the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

(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

## Don't Let The Fire Go out

Paul told Timothy to  
"stir up that inner Fire"  
(II Timothy 1:6)

### FOR THE PANTRY....

Pasta Sauce

"Bearing Fruit" – continued from page 1

on the 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*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Knowing your limitations is the first step toward overcoming them.*

*A man is poor not because he has nothing, but because he does nothing.*

## Heaven

When I was a boy, I used to think of Heaven as a glorious golden city, with jeweled walls, and gates of pearl with nobody in it but the angels, and they were all strangers to me. But after a while, my little brother died; then I thought of Heaven as that great city, full of angels, with just one little fellow in it that I was acquainted with. He was the only one I knew there at the time.

Then another brother died and there were two in Heaven that I knew. Then my acquaintances began to die, and the number of my friends in Heaven grew larger all the time. But, it was not till one of my own little ones was taken that I began to feel that I had a personal interest in Heaven. Then a second went, and a third, and a fourth; and so many of my friends and loved ones have gone there, that it seems as if I know more in Heaven than I know on earth. And now, when my thoughts turn to Heaven, it is not the gold and the jewels, and the pearls that I think of, but the loved ones there. It is not the place so much as the company that makes Heaven seem beautiful.

*-selected*

## On The Lighter Side.....



I LOOKED AHEAD AND WE WIN

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

# Miscellaneous

## Singing & Dessert Fellowship!

Wednesday  
January 29, 2020



Make your plans to be here!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday

March 1, 2020

Make your plans to be here and bring a friend



## SAVE THE DATE!

April 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting

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

## THIS IS GONNA HURT. . .

A bright young boy of seven took the large, dusty Bible from the table in the living room. After looking through its dusty pages a while he asked his mother, “Isn’t this God’s book?” His mother of course replied that it was. “Well, we’d better send it back, hadn’t we, we never use it” said the lad.

The young boy’s father might have been the man who was being chastised by the good sister who ran into him at Wal-Mart on Monday morning? She said to him, “I heard you went to a ballgame instead of coming to Bible Study and Worship Sunday.” He indignantly replied, “That’s a lie, and I’ve got the fish to prove it”. No comment needed.

tp



## Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to LaJaun Baugh, Sheri Burgay and Trish Lout in the passing of their brother-in-law , Glynn McLeod. Services are scheduled for 2:00 this afternoon at Mangum Funeral Home.

Tanya Johnson (Alda Yarbrough’s sister-in law) is taking cancer treatments in Shreveport.

### 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) **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) **David Williams** (Melvin Williams son)

### 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.



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Take a leafy branch from a tree. Lay it carefully aside and watch. Slowly the color fades, the leaves go limp, they curl up and it is dead.

Take a fish out of the lake. Lay it carefully on the sand and watch. Frantically it twists, and struggles and gradually weakens, moving its gills slower, then quivers and it is dead.

Take a church member. Carefully allow them to be separated from God in Bible Study, worship, fellowship, prayer and active service. Gradually their conscience quivers as they miss the Lord's Supper. They fret at themselves for being absent as questionable activities begin to occupy their time. Soon, there are so many hypocrites in the church, the church is always asking for money and finally they take a stand against Christian living and they are dead.

When members of the Lord's church do not attend worship because they sleep late, they forsake the assembly. They sin. When members of the Lord's church do not attend worship because of inconvenience, they forsake the assembly. They sin. When members of the Lord's church do not attend worship because it interferes with their pleasure, they forsake the assembly. They sin.

Serious isn't it?

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**