

Let's Visit

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Prayer Makes A Difference!

Of all of the blessings that God has given to us, prayer is one of the most used and misused of all of those blessings. With many, prayer is an act of desperation, a “court of last resort”. For them, prayer is where you go when you have nowhere to go.

Yet, if the depth of desperation were the only place from which prayer is applicable and expedient, prayer would still be a powerful force. Praying always, instantly, without ceasing is precious and it is the practical privilege of every Christian.

To be sure, when you read the sermon on the Mount, you come away impressed. There are responsibilities of far reaching consequence that are discussed. Jesus knew we would need help to meet those responsibilities. Therefore, twice he mentions prayer. In the first part, he teaches the simple direct approach. He contrasts it with the much speaking of the scribes.

In the latter part, Jesus emphasizes that prayer changes things. The great tragedy of our lives is that we are often confused about what prayer is. There are some folks who think of religion as something they can use. Some even believe prayer is a form of “white magic”. This in their mind enables man to use the forces of good for his benefit.

However, prayer is not magic. Prayer is within the laws of the universe. The spiritual laws are as certain as the physical. Physical and spiritual laws work together and are never in conflict. Prayer, you see, is super-natural but it is not anti-natural.

Do you remember Elijah’s prayer for rain in the long ago. Had the rain come from a clear sky, that is anti-natural. Yet, if you remember your Old Testament history, a cloud came up over the sea.

The cloud moved over the land and the rain came. It was not “anti-natural”

To be sure, prayer is never a substitute for effort. Prayer however is need finding a voice and embarrassment seeking relief. Prayer is a friend in search of a friend. Prayer is knocking on a barred door. Prayer is reaching out into the darkness. Prayer is speaking, or thinking, or feeling with the belief that there is somebody who heard and who cared and who will respond. Prayer is a means of contact with God. It is actually opening our lives to the purposes of God.

In all of our lives, there comes a time when we are at the end of our own resources. There comes a time when we have used our brains and training. We have used our skill and the die is cast. The events are in the hands of God and there we leave them.

One of the great needs of our day and time is that we recognize God in our lives and prayer does this as nothing else can. Prayer is reporting for duty, it is not, contrary to popular lore using God for our purposes. However, in order to recognize God we must see ourselves as we really are and we must recognize our needs.

We can be assured of the fact that God hears and answers prayer. Jesus said “Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be

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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

Miscellaneous



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Covered Dish Luncheon
Make your plans to be here!



Those To Remember In Prayer

Wayne Sims suffered a heart attack Monday night and spent Tuesday and Wednesday in CHI St. Luke's Hospital in Lufkin. He has had to re-schedule his biopsy.

Donnie Hagler, James Hagler and **Connie Hargrove** all are hospitalized with Covid 19

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues) **Gene Bradshaw** (recovering from surgery), **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) **Ernie Hill** (Jerry Pate's cousin) **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

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



The Single Eye

We stood at the southern rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It was an awe-inspiring sight-like standing in cathedral made by God Himself. He used the wind and rain, the sun and forest-and a tiny yellow ribbon of a river.

As we stood there, the breeze light upon our cheeks, we looked across a chasm a mile wide and a mile deep. Space was what God wanted in this masterpiece of creation. We stood in hushed silence, a sacred moment.

I noticed folk peering through what seemed to be a telescope. Curious, I bent to see, too. It was just an old piece of iron pipe, not a telescope at all. But when I looked through it, I saw details in the far canyon wall that I had missed before. The narrowed view had concentrated my powers of sight and I could see beauty that otherwise I might have missed.

Appreciation is like that, isn't it? Sometimes, when we have been showered with blessings, we fail to appreciate what we have. Perhaps we ought to stop and count our blessings with a single eye.

You cannot appreciate people in the mass until you have learned to love a neighbor or a friend. You cannot appreciate a field of flowers until you stop and examine the tiny petals of a daisy or a rose. You can't appreciate children until you have seen a child with loving eyes.

The single-eye view brings the richer appreciation

-selected



Across The Preacher's Desk

Among the many fables given to us by Aesop is the one of "The North Wind and The Sun". It seems a dispute arose between the north wind and the sun, each claiming that he was stronger than the other. At last they agreed to try their powers upon a traveler, to see which could soonest strip him of his cloak. The north wind had the first try; and gathering up all his force for the attack, he came whirling furiously down upon the man, and caught up his cloak as though he would wrest it from him by one single effort. But the harder he blew, the more closely the man wrapped it round himself. Then came the turn of the sun. At first he beamed gently upon the traveler, who soon unclasped his cloak and walked on with it hanging loosely about his shoulders. Then he shone forth in his full strength, and the man, before he had gone many steps, was glad to throw his cloak right off and complete his journey more lightly clad.

You see, it is better to persuade than to coerce. We need to realize that God does not force obedience from mankind. God gently warms our hearts with His love. It was the warmth of God's love that sent Jesus to this earth to live among men. It was the warmth of the love of Jesus that caused Him to go to the cross to die for our sins. God wants us to respond to the warmth of his love by living His kind of life, His way, in loving obedience. How can men and women turn their back on the kind of love that God has so graciously shown us?

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**