

Let's Visit

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Thank God For Reverse!

You know, you don't really appreciate having "reverse" on your automobile until it malfunctions. I remember one time having an Oldsmobile where the transmission was going out and the first thing to go was the reverse gear. You had to be very careful when you went somewhere. You never wanted to park on a flat surface against a curb because that meant you had to push it out. You always wanted to try and park on a hill so you could get out of the parking space. If you parallel parked, you wanted to make sure you were on the end so you could drive straight out. All in all, it presented a very unique set of challenges.

Being able to go in reverse is something we can be grateful. If we are going the wrong way or we miss a turn, we can back up. Sometimes the best way to correct an error is to back up. I can honestly testify that a car that won't back up is almost not worth having.

Yet, in addition to mechanical reverses there are also physical or material reverses. If someone finds themselves in the wrong job, they can "back up" and find another one. They can change jobs. When we make a purchase, there is the right to return the item for an exchange or refund (that is before Covid 19 there was!). If we find ourselves going the wrong way on the freeway, we can take the "idiot turn" and go the opposite direction. In fact, Norma and Abbey will tell you that they designed "idiot turns" with me in mind and I do admit that I make frequent use of them.

However, our greatest need is for spiritual reverses. It was Marshall Keeble, a great preacher of another era who said, "the biggest problem with people is that they just don't want to back up". You see, there are two roads of life. There is the broad

way or the narrow way. The right way or the wrong way. The way of life or the way of death. Sometimes we have to back up to get on the right road of life.

The biblical definition of reverse is repentance. It means to recover ones sense, to come to one self, to change one's mind. It is a change of conduct to back up and go the right way. Sometimes repentance is defined as being sorry for sins. However, it is more than that. It is like the little boy said in Sunday School class when the teacher asked them what repentance meant he said, "that means being sorry enough to quit."

Repentance is the desired result of preaching. When Noah was preaching before the flood, the desire was to humanity to repent of sin. Jonah went to Nineveh to preach so the people of that great city would repent. When Peter preached on Pentecost, he told those people to "repent and be baptized".

If we are to follow Jesus, we have to repent, we have to reverse our lives. The Christian life begins with a U-Turn from the paths of sin to the paths of righteousness. Yet, repentance, putting ourselves in reverse, backing up is the hardest work of men and women. It is the most difficult thing a proud man or woman is call on to do. But we must repent or we will perish (Luke 13:3) If we are willing to repent, our God is the God of the second chance.

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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

"Maintain The Spiritual Glow"

Our text comes from Romans 12:11. So many folks have lost their "spiritual glow". They are living lives without Joy. Jesus did not intend it to be this way.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Pasta Sauce

Church Members You Know

Brother and Sister indifferent:

They are good folks in a way. They don't criticize the church, you see, they are not that interested. You will have a lot of fun with them fishing or shopping. They know some good stories and are popular, but at the most you will see them once or twice a month in worship and they will miss about as much as they attend.

Brother and Sister Dependable:

They have learned that the church means everything or it is worthy of nothing. When they miss the assembly it is because some rare circumstance arose over which they had no control. If it is good, they are for it. One of their finest qualities is they are so busy in the work of Christ they have no time to complain about the criticisms and failures of others.

Brother and Sister Gossip:

These folks activity in the church is increased because they are afraid of missing

something. They don't really mean any harm. They only repeat what they hear. Their great failing seems to be that their memory is poor while their imagination is highly developed.

Brother and Sister Objector:

Nothing pleases them. The sermon is too long or too short; the weather is too hot or too cold, the songs are too high or too low. Business meetings are not interesting to brother objector unless he can tell why he is against doing the thing proposed or can complain about what has been done or is being done.

-Borrowed

After washing her face, a little girl looks in the mirror to see if her face is clean, but a little boy looks on the towel to see if his face is clean.

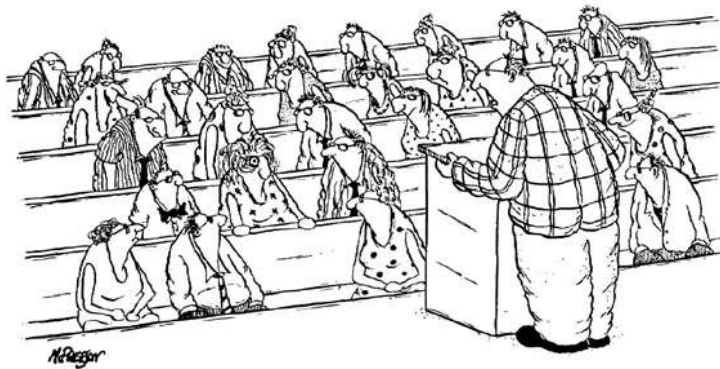
The mind is like the stomach.

It is not how much you put into it that counts, but rather how much it digests.

That man or woman who is bored when they are completely alone, should be able to understand the position of others when they are around.

The first step to knowledge is to know that we are ignorant.

On The Lighter Side.....



"Once again, I want to stress that the sermon illustration I just used is purely fictional and is not based upon anyone here in the congregation."

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Tina Vaughn (Sue Hagler's daughter) has been diagnosed with Bell's Palsy

Jerry Pate recovering from knee surgery

Bob Keffer (Bobbie Holder's father) heart issues

John Melching (Karen McCormick's father) Covid 19

Corey and Tara Yaws Covid-19

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Lucas Tate



September 13, 2020

Our annual "Friends and Family Day" is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2020.

Pray that we can have the worst of this pandemic behind us and have a wonderful time of Worship and Fellowship on that day!

**Remember our Mid Week Bible Study
Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

As we have said on numerous occasions, Facebook and the Internet are "Door Knocking" for the 21st Century. We have started publishing video sermons to Facebook and we have also established a You Tube channel for the Center Church of Christ. It would be appreciated if you would give us permission to automatically share to your personal Facebook page videos when they are posted. If you are willing to do this, please sign the following form.

I hereby grant permission for the administrators of the Center Church of Christ Facebook page to post videos and other posts generated by the Center Church of Christ to my personal Facebook page. This will also include meeting advertisements, columns (Across The Preacher's Desk) and other items posted from time to time.

Signature _____

Date _____

The Gospel

The gospel is the message of the ages to all the souls of men for all the ills of men,. It reaches down from high heaven to lift earth from low depths. It comes from the light of the world to banish the darkness of the world. It is a heavenly lifeline reaching down, inviting perishing humanity to reach up. It is a straight gospel for a crooked world, a saving gospel for a lost world, the whole gospel for the whole world.

To broken hearts the gospel applies the healing balm from the cleansing fountain. To dark hearts it applies the torch of truth. To hard hearts it applies the hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. To lonely hearts it comes as a messenger of companionship to fill the soul's living room with friendly fellowship.

The gospel is God's power to save believers. It is the testimony of the Spirit to convince skeptics. It is the heavenly instrument to turn men from darkness, and from the power of Satan unto God.

The gospel cannot save you in your sins, but from your sins. It will add you to and make you a member of the church of our Lord. It does not save unconditionally, but according to the terms of pardon and peace found in it.

The conditions of the gospel are met in this world and in this life. But its rewards flow through the world to come and eternity to be. Woe to the unfortunate who neglect, fail or refuse to believe and receive and obey and live this living word for our living Lord.

*-A. C. Williams
Minister's Monthly*



Across The Preacher's Desk

In Psalm 100:1-2 we find these words: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."

Then we read these words in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Here is another passage in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus ate the Passover with the disciples and we read, Matthew 26:30, "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives."

Yet, during our "present distress" some government officials have banned singing in church. What do Christians do when confronted with that type of situation?

When Peter and John were imprisoned and commanded to not teach in the name of Jesus, they continued teaching of Jesus. When they were again brought before the council and asked why they disobeyed they answered, Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**