

# Let's Visit

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## Growing Up Is Hard To Do

For just a moment, let's take a trip down memory lane. Do you remember what it felt like to be young? For some of us it was a long time ago, but I remember it seemed like it took forever to grow up. I remember always wanting to be older and bigger than I was. Around age 9 I wanted so badly to be a teen-ager. That magical age seemed to be forever and a lifetime away. Then it came, and then I wanted so badly to be 16 and have a driver's license. I just renewed my driver's license and they put some old man's picture on it.

When young children play, their role is always that of a grownup. Whether it's cowboys and Indians or sports or playing house with dolls, children want to be grown-ups. Yet, as I have grown older, and the hair that hasn't turned loose has turned gray, I have made a discovery. Sometimes, being a "grown-up" just isn't very much fun. When I look at a baby, I sometimes think, "wouldn't it be nice to be a baby again. I wouldn't have to do anything but eat, play and sleep. No decisions."

But a baby doesn't stay a baby for very long. They begin to feed themselves. They learn to walk. There's some pain in those things isn't there? That baby makes big messes learning how to feed himself or herself. That baby gets cuts and bruises from falling. But, they keep on trying until they figure it out. As life continues on, we continue to learn more and more and grow more and more.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3 that growing up spiritually is hard. Here is what he says in I Corinthians 3:1-4, "*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as*

*men? For while one saith, I am of Paul and another, I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal?"*

Yet, even though it is hard, we must continue our growth. We must desire a deeper awareness of the truth of God's word. We must long for a stronger faith for living and a more meaningful maturity. You see, God wants us to grow. God wants us to move on from milk to meat.

Spiritual infancy is a real problem. The spiritual infant is concerned with self rather than with service. There is a time of great rejoicing at the spiritual birth of a new Christian. It's much like the rejoicing at a natural birth. All eyes are on the baby. The baby gets pampered and spoiled. You walk the floor night after night. An infant is upset over the smallest things, and they have a way of letting you know.

Sometimes, infant Christians are the same way. Some Christians have to be handled with kid gloves. They wear their feelings on their sleeves. They are like bombs. Always ready to explode. Often they may be extra nice at church and explosive at home. At church they may be ideal, and yet at home or work they can be impossible.

At church they are always praising, anywhere else, at home or work they are pouting and in a snit. The infant is a receiver and not a giver.

The spiritually mature person is quite different. The mature Christian is a believer with a mission. Mature Christians see their mission in life as ministering to the needs of others. It is a matter of

(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

### "What God Wants From Us"

Our text comes from Micah 6:8. What does God expect from us, how does he want us to live? He wants us to be just, merciful and walk with him. We hope you find this enlightening and encouraging.

spiritually, we put away relics of spiritual infancy. We leave behind the relics of carnality. We are to feed ourselves on the word of God and look to Jesus as our example to do as Peter said, "walk in His steps." We must follow Jesus and keep our eyes on him. Following Jesus, we will mature spiritually.

tp

## On The Lighter Side. . .



## For The Pantry. . . Corn

### Growing Up Is Hard To Do – continued from page 1

servicing rather than being serviced. Reaching out to others with the love and the gospel of Christ. Mature Christians see themselves as a builder of others and as such they take seriously the building up of the body of Christ. Mature Christians will look for opportunities to serve rather than opportunities to be served.

Mature Christians care for the spiritual needs of the Body of Christ. They view themselves as peacemakers. They live and teach the scriptures. They help to make others and the church stronger.

Mature Christians have a biblical basis for every belief. It is not a matter of "I think" or "this feels right". It is a matter of "thus saith the Lord". Mature Christians are not children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, but they know what they believe and they know why they believe it.

Our goal should be to mature as Christians, just as we mature physically. As we grow physically, we leave behind the relics of childhood. A little girl may have her favorite doll and a boy may have his favorite blanket or bear. Yet, these things are put away in maturity. In the First Corinthian letter and chapter 13, Paul said that when he became a man he put away childish things. When we mature

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## Food for thought. . .

*Some people will go right on buying bread and meat and depositing money in a savings account when they don't even have a fur coat in the house.*

*An unwise man is more concerned over the wrong he suffers than over the wrong he does.*

*Often we show a very fine command of language when we say nothing*

*Reasons that sound good aren't always good sound reasons.*

# Miscellaneous

**Remember This Date!**  
**September 11, 2022**



*Celebrating*



**DAY**

Be praying for this to be a great day, make your plans to be here and invite your friends and neighbors to come and join us!

**Special  
Announcement**

There will be no  
Wednesday night service  
**THIS WEEK ONLY.**

**Each One Bring One!**  
**52 in '22**  
**Invite Someone Each Week!**



## **Those To Remember In Prayer**

We extend our sympathy to the family of Jan Permenter in her recent passing. Memorial Services are scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,  
Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt,  
Tiffanee Klein, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate,  
Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

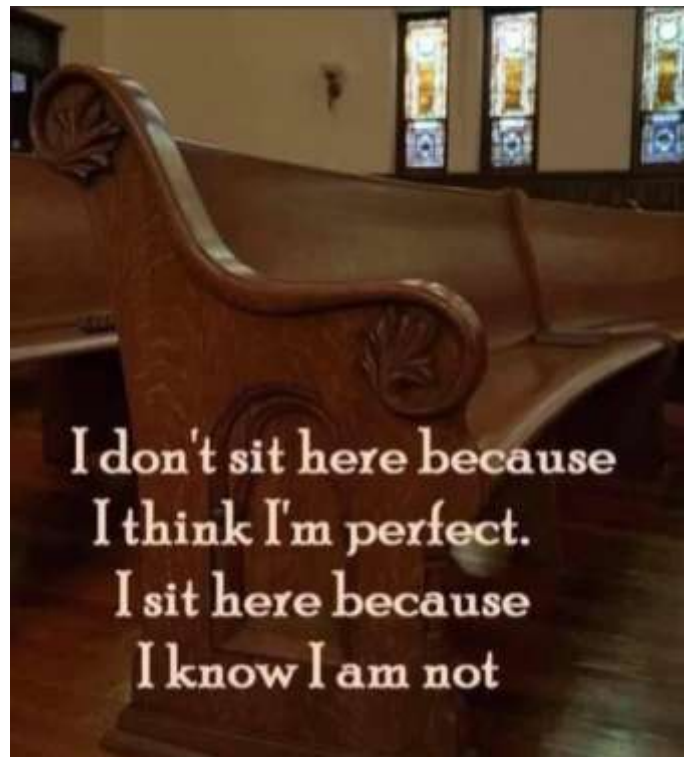
### **"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS**

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'Brien,) cancer; Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Marc Tate (Jana O'Brien's brother) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother) Tina Vaughn - cancer

### **THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE**

Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw Jeremiah Soape,  
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.





## 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 him to be separated from God in Bible Study, worship, fellowship, prayer and active service. Gradually his conscience quivers as he misses the Lord's Supper. He frets at himself for being absent as questionable activities begin to occupy his time. Soon, there are many hypocrites in the church, the church is always asking for money and finally he takes a stand against Christian living and he is dead.

When members of the Lord's church do not attend worship because they sleep late, they forsake the assembly. When members of the Lord's church do not attend worship because of inconvenience, they forsake the assembly. Let's make sure we do not separate ourselves from the family of God.

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
52 in '22!**