

# Let's Visit

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## Unproductive Worry

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that we are not to be anxious about the things of this life. He warns us against unproductive worry. Yet, there is so much unrest, so much disappointment, so much for us to be anxious about in our world today.

Most of our anxiety and worry is about tomorrow. What does tomorrow hold for us? Will the economy still be stable tomorrow? With this current pandemic, will kids be able to go to school this year? Will we still have football this year? Will I get sick? Will some of my dear family or friends contract this illness? When will life return to normal? Will life ever be normal or will it be this "new normal" we so often hear about? Do you remember what Jesus said? Here are His words, *"be not therefore anxious for the morrow, for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."* (Matthew 6:34) Jesus was talking about such things as food, clothing and shelter. It would do all of us good to read the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew and read it often. We cannot and will not deny that life is complicated. Especially at this point in history. There is political unrest all over the globe and even in our own nation. There is the uncertainty of this time we are living in. However, we must remember that the God who has brought us this far can carry us on from where we are.

We should be concerned about making a success of today. There will be no pleasure tomorrow in looking back on the failures of today. Most of us live between two parts of our lives which are constantly dealing us misery. We are fearful of the future and we worry about it while we regret the past. Why should anyone be forced to regret the past? Perhaps because they failed to realize the

value of taking care of today. We often attempt to escape from the responsibility of today as did Scarlet in "Gone With The Wind" by saying, "Oh Well, I'll worry about that tomorrow, after all, tomorrow is another day." Yet, if we stop and think, we realize that if tomorrow does come, we cannot enjoy it unless we have made a success of the day before it. Anything I put off today by saying I will do it tomorrow, will either never be done or I will be forced to neglect something tomorrow to do what should have been done today. Every day has the same amount of hours as the day before. We will never have time to make up for the hours we might lose. They are gone and will never return. This does not mean I may not be able to be a greater success tomorrow than I have been today, but it does mean that the measure of success tomorrow depends on how well we succeed today.

We might well ask, "Well, since I have already made some failures, where do I start?" We start today by doing the will of God and living God's kind of life in God's way. God will forgive us for past failures if we will but genuinely repent and do his will. When he has freed us from the burden of yesterday's failures then we make today what it should be so that we will have no worries tomorrow. This does not mean we will not have difficulties. But, we serve a God who can solve all our difficulties if we live for Him one day at a time.

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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

### **"Faith For Tomorrow"**

Our text comes from  
**Romans 8:28. God does not promise that everything that happens will be good, but that He will work it to our Good. Faith is the key.**

## **FOR THE PANTRY....**

**Pasta Sauce**

## **Don't Hide Your Enthusiasm!**

One thing that constantly puzzles me is how one can be a Christian and still be matter of fact about it. Some seem to take the relationship with God as one of his children, and hence a joint heir with the Christ of the eternal home as though it is "just one of those things." Complacent, nonchalant, indifferent apparently about the whole matter. Let one of these persons be a "Kiwanis", "Mason", "Jaycee", "Eastern Star", or "what have you" and he or she is always talking about it. They are wearing "badges", "giving grips" lauding its values and activities. Are they members of the church? Well you have to drag it out of them. You could not "tell it by looking at them" nor indeed "listening to them". Why? I fear some of are "dying of self-control".

Enthusiasm upon the part of the child of God is nothing but normal. If a person is not enthusiastic about being a Christian he definitely is subnormal. Lacking something vital. The greatness of my stewardship as one upon whom rests the responsibility to teach the Gospel "unto the uttermost part of the world" should be a constant

challenge that thrills. The very grandeur of the objective of the children of God – the salvation of souls – will be to the normal Christian a constant source of inspiration. And, when we think of one who is our "Chief Executive" our "Commander in Chief" our "King" nothing should be able to dim our ardor.

There cannot be any substitute for enthusiasm. Real achievement in the service of Christ unto the salvation of our own souls, as well as those of others, is impossible without enthusiasm. As well expect a kettle to boil without fire under it, as to expect anything worthwhile in the function of the child of God without enthusiasm. Enthusiasm makes all the difference between happy, joyous service and the drudgery of being compelled to work. The greatest need of the church today is not a "pulpit that will draw" but rather "pews that radiate".

God expects his children to be enthusiastic. It was a prominent characteristic of the Christ. Follow the Apostle Paul around a while and observe how he radiated.

*-Gayle Oler  
-Just A Moment*

## *On The Lighter Side.....*



**"Why do you always obsess about the one negative response?"**

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins)  
scheduled for knee surgery July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Tina Vaughn** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## God Is Not Too Busy!

*"(Jesus is) touched with the feeling of our infirmities...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:15-16)

In our vast and complicated world, it is often easy to think of God as being too busy, too big and too great to bother with our personal problems.

The Bible points us to a Savior who is touched by our weaknesses. Its advice is to cast *"all your care upon him; for he careth for you"* (1 Peter 5:7) This is why we have God – because we have problems we cannot solve ourselves. Many times we do not know how to manage our lives. Situations come to us which are so complex that we simply do not know how to cope with them. But our problems are small in comparison with God's ability and eagerness to handle them, for he *"is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."* (Ephesians 3:20)

Christ himself said that he notices the fall of a worthless sparrow. Then he reminded us, "ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31) Repeatedly, Jesus has told us in his word that he is interested in the tiniest detail of our lives and that no problem is an imposition upon him because he loves us.

*-selected*

*Isn't it strange that our fellowmen are mighty fine,  
honest, honorable people as long as they agree  
with us; but when they contradict us,  
it is strange how quickly they become low-down  
liars and the most despicable and non-dependable  
folk to be found!*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Just for a moment, ponder the message of the following passages of scripture.

Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Ephesians 4:29-30, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

By our words we express our ideas and thoughts. With words we can hurt, discourage, anger, stir up strife and crush the spirits of those around us. Conversely, we can cheer, enlighten, encourage, uplift and calm others by our words also.

We can speak a language that is pure and pleasing in the sight of God and unquestionable in the sight of men, or we can corrupt that language until it damns our soul. Stop and think!

Do my words justify or condemn me? Is my speech pure and clean or is it distasteful in the sight of God and man? Let us strive to speak in a manner that is becoming to Christians and uplifting to those we associate with daily.

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**