

Let's Visit

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Paul's Certainties

We are living in a very skeptical age, an age of count. It is an era in which "Doubting Thomas" as we call him might feel quite at home. In our day and time there is a spirit of uncertainty in the air. You find this in the political, economic and social realm of our world. You also find it in the realm of religion. Yet, doubt does not bring peace nor satisfaction.

Admittedly, there are a lot of things I do not know. I don't know why we drive on parkways and park on driveways. I don't know why sour cream has an expiration date, after all, it is already sour. I don't know why we call them buildings when they are already built, shouldn't they be called "builts"?

Yet, there are some things that I do know. And yes, it is refreshing to see a man positive about certain fundamentals. It is invigorating to see a man with convictions. The Apostle Paul did not claim to know everything. He knew that some things unknown would be revealed. That is what he said in I Corinthians 13:12.

Paul did, however, know Jesus Christ. When he wrote the second letter to Timothy, he told the young man in Chapter 1 and verse 12, he knew whom he had believed. You see, Paul did not just know about Jesus, he knew Jesus personally. He had met Him on the road to Damascus.

Paul knew the terror of the Lord. He knew it would be terrible to meet the Lord unprepared. He said as much in II Corinthians 5:10-11. Romans chapter 11 tells us the story of God's dealing with his people. In verse 22, Paul writes, "Behold the goodness and severity of God." You see, while Paul knew the goodness, love and mercy of God, he was also very aware of the severity of God.

Paul was very sure of the goodness of God. He knew that all things work together for good to them that love God, that was what he wrote and promised

in Romans chapter 8 and verse 28. Remember when you read that passage it was not written by a man who had never known trouble. It was written by a man who had been shipwrecked, beaten and stoned. Yet, with perfect confidence, he declares that all things work together for good to them that love God.

There was something else that Paul knew. He knew that he had a perfect savior. Remember, he wrote to Timothy and said he knew whom he had believed.

I am quite sure that Paul knew what he believed and why he believed it. Yet, he does not say he knows what he believes. He says, "I know whom I have believed". It was a personal matter with Paul. He had been converted to Christ. His faith was in a person.

Being certain of "whom he had believed", Paul was also certain of "a house not made with hands" that he wrote about in II Corinthians chapter 5 and verse 1. You see, we are not certain where we will be tomorrow. The wise man tells us in Proverbs 27:1 to not boast of tomorrow and James tells us in James 4:14 that our life is a vapor. Though we do not know what tomorrow holds, nor where we will be tomorrow, the faithful child of God knows where they will spend the great tomorrow. In a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens, blessed thought and happy day. May we with Paul know whom we have believed.

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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

"I Have Sinned – But. . . ."

In Tolstoy's "War and Peace" Pierre is quoted as saying, "I have sinned, but I have several excellent excuses". How much is that like us?

the love and mercy of a dedicated heart. "And if I give my body to be burned but have not love, I am nothing"

-Just A Moment

Each One Bring One!
53 in '23
Invite Someone Each Week!

*There are some folks who don't have to turn out
the light to be in the dark.*

*Few sacrifice an ounce of anything without
expecting a pound of praise in return.*

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

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On The Lighter Side. . .



"Attendance is down again this morning.
If we want to continue calling ourselves a congregation,
we're going to have to congregate."

For The Pantry. . .

July 23 – Macaroni & Cheese

"I Desire Mercy And Not Sacrifice"

Mercy is a condition of the heart, a quality of the spirit. Sacrifice is action. It may take the form of giving, self-imposed punishment, difficult rituals or hard work. Some of it may be exceedingly worthy, but sacrifice, in and of itself, is meaningless to God, and he will not accept it as a substitute for spiritual excellence and worthy motives.

Man has ever sought to pacify his maker by cleansing the outside of the cup, which men see, rather than the inside which God sees. We try to "buy our salvation with sacrifice in order to avoid the pain of changing our lives as God demands. Sacrifices may hurt but their pain is as nothing compared to the agony of really looking at our own sinful selves. It hurts to face up to our pettiness, our ugly dispositions, our tempers, our lies, our jealousies and our other "works of the flesh".

Is personal sacrifice then a part of godly living? Yes! The Bible is full of the necessity of sacrifice. We must conclude, however, that no sacrifice will ever be acceptable to God unless it is prompted by

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Alice Pate (former member here) is recovering from neck surgery this past Monday in Longview.

Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) has been diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. She is tentatively scheduled for surgery August 11th in Shreveport.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Leon Aldridge, Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Louise Johnson, Mike O'Brien, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew)
Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother),
Minion Bean-(Mike O'Brien's mother) recovering from a fall and hip surgery), **Aleshia Bradshaw** (Gene & Martha Bradshaw's granddaughter in law)
Brenda Bradshaw (Gene Bradshaw's sister in law) recovering from knee surgery; **Curtis Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's brother) recovering from pneumonia; **Shelley Bradshaw** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) severe headaches and dizziness. **Ron Cone** (Laura Miller's dad), **Celina Danley** (Sister of Joyce Danley) multiple health issues, **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues)
Gail Foster (Cancer) **Mark Foster** (recovering from foot surgery) **Sandra Fuller** (friend of Betty Miller) **Mary Ann Gillis** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) **John Henry Holloway** (Martha Jean Golden's son) **Suzanne Ihlo** (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) **James Johnson** (Betty Miller's Cousin) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Reba Miley** (friend of Debra Pate) **Vervan Pate** (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. **Al Reick** (Robbie Holt's brother-in-law) pancreatic cancer. **Stephanie Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **J. C. and Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother and father)
Wes Wiesemer (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) recovering from a stroke and also suffering with cancer: **Clark Paul Williams** (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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



Save The Date!
September 10, 2023

Plan to be here and bring a guest (or 2)

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Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of this luncheon. The Members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonie Molloy.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL – Our next Wednesday night meal will be **THIS WEEK**, July 26th. Make your plans to come and join us at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship before our service.

Make your plans to be in Bible Class
9:45 Sunday Morning - 7:00 Wednesday

WE HAVE SUFFERED FROM THE PREACHING OF CHEAP GRACE. GRACE IS FREE, BUT IT IS NOT CHEAP. PEOPLE WILL TAKE ANYTHING THAT IS FREE, BUT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN DISCIPLESHIP. THEY WILL TAKE CHRIST AS SAVIOR BUT NOT AS LORD.

- VANCE HAVNER -



Across The Preacher's Desk

Sorrow is a universal experience, it comes to the rich and poor, to the powerful and the weak. So much of the sorrow in our world is unseen, often it is hidden from view purposely. Many times it is known only to the individual and to God. It can be buried beneath a cheerful countenance and earthly baubles. Yet, even the most cheerful often have troubled hearts.

Our hearts can be troubled by sins, either our own or the sins of others. Hearts can be heavy because of the departure of a loved one or the deep waters of serious illness. There are times that our hearts are distressed due to the unfaithfulness of a friend or feelings of insecurity.

Jesus did not shun sorrow. To be sure, He was often found among people with heavy hearts, people who were distressed and uneasy, To these He was sympathetic. Jesus suffered with people and shared their sorrows. His mission was to "heal the brokenhearted" (Luke 4:18)

Jesus' remedy for broken and troubled hearts was faith. He said "believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). A few sentences later we read, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh into the Father but by me." When our faith is in Jesus Christ, when we live life His way, our troubled hearts will find relief.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
53 in '23!**