

Let's Visit

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Forgetting What Is Behind

When we read Philippians 3:13-14, we learn that the Apostle Paul was a specialist. He was not a man embarking on a dozen different enterprises at once. He actually was not even engaged in two. Here is how the passage reads: *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"*. Paul was concentrating all his time, attention and ability to one single task. He wanted to gain heaven. Daily he sought to bring himself more fully to conform to the will of God. Daily he gave himself to spend and be spent in the service of God.

Paul, in going about his task, made good use of his trash can. He knew what to throw away and what to keep. You see, all of us have our trash cans. Now and then we have to go through and clean house. When we do that, we find there are many things that need to be thrown away and many things that need to be kept.

As we see Paul use his trash can, the passage does not mean that he forgot everything. He did not blot out his past and leave it perfectly blank. Paul kept some things and there are some things that you and I must keep also.

There are some things of yesterday that we must not forget. We must not forget the promise we made to serve the Lord. We also must remember the kindnesses that have been shown to us and the mercy and blessing of God in our lives.

Yet, we must throw away the wrongs that we have suffered. They will not help us and they will do us much harm if we try and keep them. Yet, on the other hand, did somebody write you a love

letter? Then keep that. Did somebody write you a letter of appreciation? By all means hold on to it. Has somebody injured you, cheated you or deceived you? Then forget it. Throw all your grudges into the trash. You see, Jesus cannot forgive us unless we forgive others. Jesus cannot give us a new heart while we cling to the old.

We must throw away the record of past failures, blunders and mistakes. It might be that we made a terrible failure last year. We made a mistake that casts a shadow on tomorrow. Paul says, forget the mistakes and failures of yesterday. You see, we will never run forward when our eyes are turned backward. If we constantly look to the past, we will never go forward. Men and women walk in the direction they look and it is only as we look forward, to the future, that we will make progress.

We won't forget yesterday simply by trying to forget. We cannot will ourselves to forget. We must become absorbed by the things that are in front of us. We must become absorbed in today and tomorrow. Not yesterday.

Be assured there is much that is lovely and precious behind us. However, there is so much before us that makes life livable. Paul said that he would "press toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". We must do that also. Forgetting the mistakes and failures of the past,

(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

Guest Speaker:

Calvin Turner

FOR THE PANTRY....

Cereal

Forgetting What Is Behind – continued from page 1

forgetting the hurts of the past, we must concentrate all our energy on attaining the prize of heaven after this life is over. We do that not just by forgetting the past, but by focusing our lives on Jesus Christ and living his kind of life. Throw the past in the wastebasket and begin to live so that others might see Jesus living in you and someday heaven might be our home.

tp

Complying With Our Own Demands

Are you willing to comply with the same demands that you make on other people? This should be a searching question for every member of the church to answer honestly in their own heart. Most of us have demands which we make of other people, at least in our own minds this is true. Our attitudes and our actions tell of those demands, and also whether or not we are willing to comply with them.

We doubt that any sincere member of the church would approve the discontinuance of Bible Study on Sunday morning. You would not approve an end to Bible Classes would you? But Bible classes are not successful unless they are attended by someone,

therefore you in your own mind make a demand that somebody attend Bible classes which you demand to be held. Are you willing to comply with your own demands? Do you attend Bible Study classes?

For the church to do the work required, a rather large amount of money is necessary. You would not be in favor of pie suppers, or rummage sales or lotteries to raise money for the church, hence, in your own mind you demand that contributions be made for the church. Somebody must make those contributions and so that is included in your demand. Are you willing to comply with the demands you make of other members of the church? Do you give as you have been prospered?

Members of the church should be friendly. Friendly with strangers as well as with one another. But are you friendly? Visiting should be done. Sometimes people demand that others visit them, yet they refuse to visit anyone. They are not willing to measure up to the standard which they set up for other people. They are not willing to comply with the same demands they make on others. Jesus warned his disciples against the Pharisees because they taught and they did not act.

-Foster Ramsey

On The Lighter Side....



"Why is it that a congregation that is still bitter about a 42-year-old misunderstanding can't remember last week's sermon topic?"

Miscellaneous

Friends & Family Day



Invite your
family and
friends and plan
to be here!

September 12, 2021

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If I take care
of my
character,
my
reputation
will take
care of
itself.”

D. L. Moody



Those To Remember In Prayer

Jerry Pate is recovering from knee surgery.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Ted and Joyce Holt, Betty Miller,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Melvin Williams

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother)
Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) Gil Boullion
(Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery **Cody Butler**
(Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-
grandaughter)) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from
heart surgery) **Keeth Fontenot** (Debra Pate's son) undergoing
tests for suspicious knot on his neck **Gayle Foster**
(Cancer) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew)
Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'Brien,) cancer **Liam**
Martinez (11 months old) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah
Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Phillip Patton** (COVID 19)
Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure
issues; **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and
daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
and Lucas Tate

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

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

9:45 a.m.

Mid-Week Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening

IN APPRECIATION...

We sincerely appreciate Calvin Turner coming to
teach the Bible Class this morning and preach for our
Worship this morning.

Tim and Norma are in Bullard this morning for
Worship, as Matt is being installed as Deacon at the
Bullard Church of Christ.



Across The Preacher's Desk

In Matthew 18:3, Jesus said, “unless you change your whole outlook and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Phillips). Do we really comprehend what it is to have the faith of a child?

We had our grandsons with us over the weekend, and the oldest is almost 3 and is an early riser. He would come into the kitchen with me before the sun was up and I would be making coffee. One morning he asked me, “Poppy, where is the sun”. Well, I summoned all my scientific vocabulary and told him, “the sun is asleep, but it will be waking up soon” Then he asked “why?” (that’s his favorite question). I told him the sun needed to rest so it could spend the day lighting and warming the earth.

Our kitchen window faces east. As soon as the sun started to peek out over the treetops, I picked him up and stood him on the cabinet and said, “Mason, look, the sun is waking up”

He looked at me and said, “Poppy, God made the sun...and the moon”. There was no question there. It was just a matter of fact statement from a 3 year old informing me the sun was coming up that morning because God made it. Every morning he came in and wanted me to pick him up so he could see the sun “wake up”

Jesus said that is the kind of faith you and I need. A simple, childlike faith in God. Maybe we should work on that.

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

**Have You Invited A
Friend, Neighbor or
Loved on to join you
in Worship?**