



# LET'S VISIT

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## THE QUALITY OF LIFE

In Psalms 102 and verses 23 through 28, we find the Psalmist considering his own personal condition. He considers himself as one who has but a narrow span of life remaining and even that small span is likely to be shortened. His heart is troubled at the thought of the brevity of mortal life.

The length of our life is regarded by us very differently. A lot depends on the portion of life we have spent. In youth, it seems long, and we are eager to get on further. We anticipate the coming years. However, as we get older, it seems short indeed. Often we wish we were younger than we are. We think of the song George Burns sang many years ago, "I Wish I Was 18 Again". Often, that does seem to be the longing of our hearts.

Many, who are immersed in cares or pleasures, have no time to measure the life they are fast expending. To the thoughtful as well as to the imaginative, human life seems a painfully short time in which to sustain its pure and holy relationship. It is a very short time to gather life's fruits of learning and wisdom. It is a brief span to do life's work and achieve some solid and enduring task. All too soon the flowers wither and life is over. Look at what the Psalmist says in verse 11, "My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass."

This pensiveness is deepened by the thought of the uncertainty of life. Sudden sickness comes. The strong man in his prime is laid on the bed of death. The squeal of tires, the sound of steel making contact with steel, the glass breaks, the accident occurs and men and women are removed in an hour from the scenes of their activity and the homes of their affection.

This passage is an earnest, impassioned prayer for a long life. It is a prayer against death, and the fact

that gives it its earnestness and impassioned energy is that the one who offers this prayer is in the "midst of his days".

It is not a child who has never experienced life. It is a life mature but not aged. Old age has been denied to many of God's beloved ones. It was denied to the son himself. We may desire length of days. There are many motives, worthy motives which prompt this desire and yet, this desire is often refused. God may have some better thing for us and for our loved ones.

But the real sadness is not in such shortened lives. The real sadness is in those which end, not literally in the midst of their days, but with the real purpose of life unachieved.

We must never confuse quantity of life with quality of life. It is natural for us to pray for a long life. Cain outlived Abel, yet, who had the most complete life. Abel is mentioned as one of the "Heroes of the Faith" in Hebrews chapter 11.

Methusaleh lived 969 years. Yet, what is remembered about Methusaleh besides his age? The Genesis account tells us Methusaleh begat Lamech and sons and daughters, lived 969 years and he died. That's all. However, contrast the life of Methusaleh with the life of his father, Enoch. Enoch lived only 365 years. Yet, his life must have been filled with a lot of living. Rich living and rewarding

**(Continued On Page 2)**

### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 - 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



## *What Is Christianity?*

**For The Pantry. . .**

**July 6 – Peanut Butter**

**Offering – June 29, 2025 . . \$ 2,348.00**

**The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"**

**The Quality of Life – continued from page 1**

experiences and "Enoch walked with God".

Jesus lived just 33 years, and yet look at the completeness of His life. He is remembered 2,000 years later. He sought to do the will of the Father and we are told in Acts chapter 10 that "He went about doing good."

When can a life be called complete? When we put things in their proper perspective, then life begins to be complete. It is then that we can concentrate on the quality of life.

We spend too much time in this life emphasizing the wrong things. Why should it take a grave illness or death to bring us to our senses? Why should it take some tragedy to make us forget the trivialities that often engulf us? Why does it take misfortune to cause us to put things in their proper perspective?

The most valuable possession we have is our soul. Prudence demands that our first consideration be given to the welfare of our soul.

Do you remember Solomon? He tried it all. He concluded that to fear God and keep his commandments was the whole duty of man.

Our life is complete when we give it completely to Jesus Christ. When we make him the Lord and Master of our lives. When we are zealously engaged in good works and are ready unto every

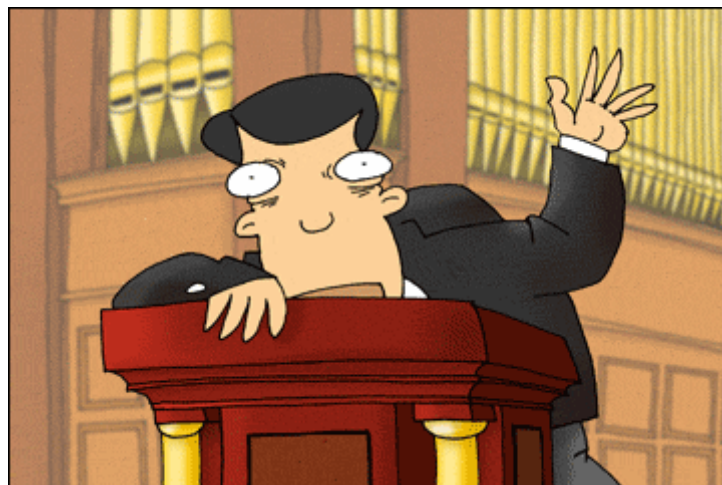
good work. We are never quite ready to leave this life and we are never quite ready for our loved ones to leave. I well remember what my little grandmother used to say. She always said, "heaven is my home, but I'm not homesick".

But we must always be ready to accept the will of God. One of the best examples of someone ready to accept God's will is the Apostle Paul. Paul wanted to stay and labor, yet he also had a desire to be with Christ. He would write in Philippians 1:21-24, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour; yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better; Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." He left it all in God's hands.

There is a life beyond. A complete life is really not complete in this world. It must be blessed with the presence of God in heaven to attain perfection, as we long for the mansion not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

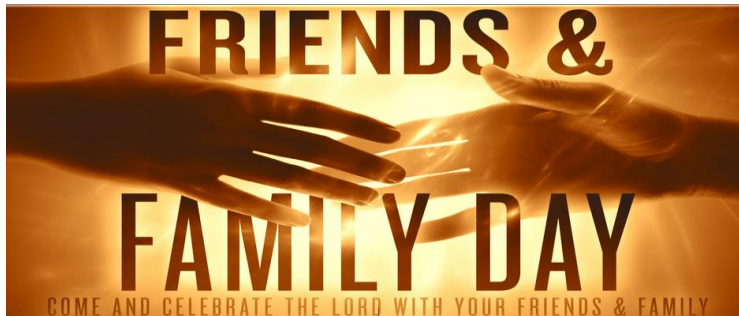
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## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



**THE TITLE OF THIS WEEK'S SERMON IS "I JUST SPENT ALL WEEK WORKING ON A SERMON AND I GOT NOTHING"**

*There are two kinds of reasons an individual will give for staying away from worship. The real ones and those that sound better.*



## September 7, 2025

Put this date on your calendar, make your plans to be here and invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Martha Bradshaw, Sheri Burgay, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

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**Communion Preparation for July**  
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



We would like for you to plan to come and join us for our next Wednesday night fellowship meal on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

We would also like for everyone to join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 for our regular mid-week Bible Study. We hope you will come and be there.

### OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Lane O'Brien (Mike and Jana's son) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

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

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



## Across The Preacher's Desk

We are living in turbulent times. Our political landscape has become a minefield and it seems that every day the rhetoric becomes more hateful and divisive. Yet, there is a very significant passage of scripture from Paul in Romans chapter 12. Paul tells how we should treat each other. He tells us to be kindly affectioned toward each other, to bless them that persecute us, to rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those who are weeping. He then writes this very meaningful statement in verse 18: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Have you ever thought, really thought about that passage? Paul wants us to understand there will be people we can't get along with. There will be people we can't be popular with. There will be people who just plain do not like us. If we are honest, this should not come as a great shock to us. You see, to be truthful, none of us completely likes everything about the way we are.

Yet, Paul says we are to live peaceably with others as much as possible. That means we are to understand that the Body of Christ, the Church, is bigger than any individual and more important than any individual. That means we must turn loose of the idea that "it's all about me" and realize it's all about the Lord. Until we do that, we will never please the Lord and the Church will never thrive and prosper the way the Lord wants it to.

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
55 in '25!**