

# Let's Visit

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## Are You Filling Your Place?

It was Nathaniel Hawthorne who said, "every individual has a place to fill in the world, and is important in some respect, whether he chooses to be so or not. I believe this is true concerning the church. Paul said, *"those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary"* (I Corinthians 12:22). A reading of that entire chapter will reveal that Paul believed every member of the church has an important place to fill. There are two thoughts we need to consider.

There are those who do not realize the place they can fill, and go about trying to fill the wrong place. The Lord planned that certain services should be performed and that men should be trained to render those services. Evangelists are serving under a Divine calling. Not that God calls preachers as some denominational groups declare, but that he does call men through their love for his cause and preparation in this matter. If you are not a preacher in this sense, you cannot fill this place. It is foolish to try. It is more an evidence of ignorance in the matter to try to tell one trained for this service how to fill his place. If it was the Lord's plan that men should be selected to oversee a congregation. They have a Divine calling and have been selected by the congregation over which they serve to fulfill the obligations the service demands. It is foolish for others to try to fill the place for them. This does not mean that people appointed to special service are not open to suggestions. All good men are. But they should be allowed to make decisions and plans for a congregation without interference from those who cannot fill the place. Elders cannot always tell everyone the reason for some decisions because they deal with too many delicate matters. Keeping a congregation operating in unity and moving on to

bigger things is no little job. They cannot even afford to be directed by their wives in matters that pertain to the Lord's work. If they are what God wants them to be they will be directed only by the will of the Lord, and people who respect the Lord's plan will allow them to fill their place with cooperation and respect from others. There are many ways to illustrate this thought so you can go on from there.

There are a still greater number who will not fill any place. They see places to fill only in the sense of selection. Unless they are selected to fill a place, like serving as an elder, deacon, teacher, etc, they do not feel that they are obligated to render any more service than is required to be present for worship. Such reasoning is void of understanding.

In a congregation of the Lord's people there are many things that need to be done that call for no official appointment at all. Love for the cause of Christ and the souls of men is all that one needs to prompt him to fill a place that is within his reach. It may be helping one in trouble, talking to someone about his soul, or just ringing one to the church services. There are many such services that are waiting for you to perform them. Hence, you have a place. You are important to the work. The church can grow much faster and become much stronger if you will fill your place. Are you filling it?

-Cleon Lyles

### 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

### **"Following, But Not Too Close!"**

Our text comes from **Matthew 26:58. Peter followed Jesus, but he kept his distance. Are we sometimes guilty of also following Jesus, yet being careful not to get too close?**

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

**Corn**

## **This Past Sunday. . . It Was A GREAT Day!**

This past Sunday (June 6, 2021) was a great day for the Lord at the Center Church of Christ. We had 51 precious souls present for our morning worship. This was only 2 short of our goal of 53 but it was still a good number and represents a 50% increase over our attendance the same Sunday in 2019 (pre-COVID). Our offering was \$4,489.00 and this is an increase of 80% over the same Sunday in 2019 (pre-COVID). Both of these numbers and their increase over our numbers 2 years ago represent positive signs for the future of the Lord's Church in Center, Texas. We have said it before, we will say it again and we will continue to say that the greatest and best days for the Center Church of Christ are still in the future. We want to encourage each and every member of this congregation to invite their friends, neighbors and acquaintances to come and be a part of those great days.

To all who helped make the day the success that it was, you are appreciated more than you know. To all of you ladies who cooked, brought food, served, helped clean up and served in so many ways, you are appreciated more than we have the words to express. To those who helped stack

chairs, haul chairs, and do all the other "un-glamorous" things involved in having a dinner, we appreciate your hard work.

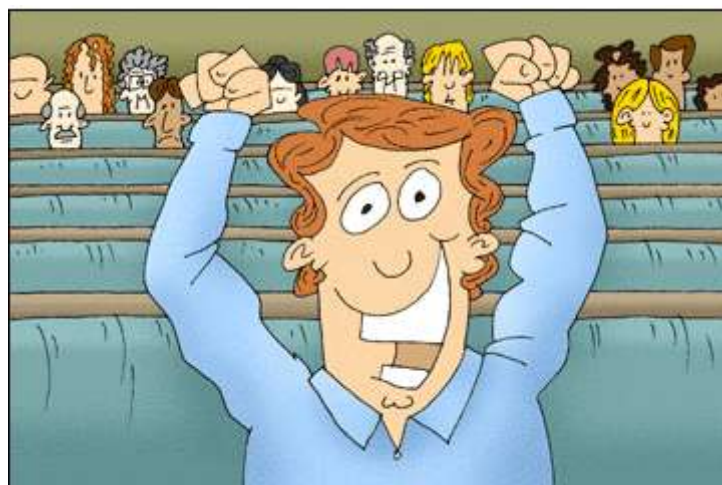
Now, we turn our attention to our next event. Sunday, September 12, 2021 will be our annual "FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY". Begin right now to pray that we can have an even more successful day then than we had this past Sunday. Begin today to invite friends and family to come and join us that day for Worship and stay for our covered dish luncheon to follow.

We need to pray for the growth of the church (spiritual, numerical and financial) as if everything depended on God and work for the growth of the church as if everything depends on us. There will be "naysayers". There will be those who say "it can't be done". Remember, Joshua and Caleb were in the minority. Nehemiah was ridiculed when they were re-building the walls of Jerusalem. When there are those who say we cannot accomplish great things, we must remember that they leave God out of the equation. With God on our side, through the power of God, NOTHING is impossible.

Through the power of God, we will accomplish great things to His glory.

*Tp*

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



**BEING MUCH MORE OF A CONCERT-GOER THAN A CHURCH-GOER, TOM FOUND HIMSELF VOTED "MOST EXCITED TO SIT IN THE FRONT ROW ... EVER"**

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**Melvin Williams** heart procedure scheduled for this past Wednesday has been re-scheduled.

**Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother) had a stroke Tuesday of this past week and is in need of our prayers.

**Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law) got test results and her cancer is much more active. She is not doing well.

Jennifer Sonka (co-worker of Norma) has a great nephew **Liam Martinez** (11 months old) in Texas Childrens Hospital Critical care unit with RSV with a feeding tube and on a respirator.

We extend our sympathy to **Eltroy McCowin** (Eltroy mows the yard at the building) His son, Eltroy McCowin Jr. passed away on Tuesday in Houston with the COVID virus. Services are pending.

### 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

Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece)  
Cody Butler (Debra Pate's grandson) Paul Cocklin (co-worker of Norma Perkins) Sharon Connot (friend of the Perkins') Peyton Cook (Betty Miller's great-granddaughter) B. B. Cox (recovering from Heart Surgery) Gracie Elam (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) Keeth Fontenot (Debra Pate's son) undergoing tests for s suspicious know on his neck Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) 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) Jo Windham (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

#### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

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



## September 12, 2021

Invite your family and friends  
and plan to be here!

\* \* \* \* \*

Men's Business Meeting – Today (June 13, 2021) in the church office immediately following the morning worship services. All men of the congregation are encourage to attend.

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

9:45 a.m.

"Paul's Prison Epistles - Colossians"

### Mid-Week Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening

"The One Word Bible Study"

Please come and join us in these  
weekly activities.

*There are few wild beasts more to be dreaded than  
a talking man having nothing to say.*

*Never miss an opportunity to make others happy,  
even if you have to leave them alone to do it.*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

After Simon had denied Jesus for the third time, Jesus looked at Simon. He didn't say a word. He just looked at him. When Simon saw Jesus, he went out and wept. He wept bitterly.

I remember times when I would do things that disappointed my earthly father. Times when he didn't say anything. He just looked at me with disappointment in his eyes. It was worse than any whipping he ever gave me (and I got my share of those!).

Let's be honest, all of us from time to time disappoint those we love. Worse, we often make mistakes and disappoint the Lord who loves us and died for us. That's what Paul was talking about when he wrote, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

Some of our mistakes admittedly are quite trivial, even just plain dumb. Things like locking our keys in our car (sometimes with the motor running), forgetting to add sugar to the cranberry sauce (it does make it very tart) or walking into an electric fence.

However, there are other "mistakes" that are more significant. Things like heading down a path to addiction. Things like committing a crime or walking out on a spouse and children. However, all of our mistakes, from the momentarily annoying to the life altering can be washed away by the blood of Jesus.

The one fatal mistake we can make is to ignore the fact that one day we will die and that Jesus is the only way to shun Hell and enter Heaven. That is one thing we must get right.

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

**Commitment  
Builds  
Great  
Churches!**