

Let's Visit

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I Know Whom I Have Believed

Second Timothy is the last of Paul's letters that have been preserved for us. It was written during his last imprisonment in Rome. The aged soldier of the cross is facing death. He writes this letter to the young preacher Timothy, his son in the gospel. He knows that this young man will be facing rigorous work and hardships until death. Paul is doing his best to counsel him on meeting these problems. So, Paul writes in II Timothy 1:12; *"For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* Paul tells this young man he KNOWS whom he has believed. The same faith that inspired Timothy and sustained Paul will also see us safely to victory.

Notice the imagery in this passage. Paul indicates that he has something that is of great value. Something that is in danger of being lost and that he is unable to protect by himself. Yet, in Jesus Christ, Paul has found a safe protector.

Paul knew this protector. Notice he says, "I know whom I have believed". Paul had met Jesus when his name was Saul and he was making havoc of the church. He was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians when he was knocked to his knees and met Jesus Christ. He went into the city and a preacher by the name of Ananias came to him and said to him, *"arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord"*. Standing before King Agrippa, Paul said he was not disobedient to that heavenly vision.

Since meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul had come to know him through years of prayer and providence. Because of his total commitment to Jesus, He was confident that Jesus would do what he

had promised to do. His commitment included full compliance with living the kind of life that Jesus wanted Paul to live.

This Jesus that Paul had such confidence in was the same Jesus he had written about in I Corinthians 15:55-58, *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

We have the same opportunity to know Jesus that Paul did. We may not meet Him as Paul did on the Damascus road, but we can know Him through the experience of a Bible carefully studied. We may know Him through our own time of prayer. When we come to know Him, the same confidence that Paul had is available to us. You see, Jesus is interested in all men and women. The great commission was to preach the gospel to all nations. For all those who love His appearing, for those who live His kind of life, there is crown of righteousness that Paul wrote of in II Timothy 4:6-8. To have that same confidence Paul had requires an unconditional surrender of our human will to the will of Jesus Christ.

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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

"A Delightful Invitation"

Our text comes from Matthew 11:28. Jesus invites those who have labored, those who are heavily laden to come to him and receive rest. We will take a closer look at this today.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Rice

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" or a "Mason" a "Jaycee", "Eastern Star" or what have you and he or she is always talking about it. They are wearing "badges", "giving grips" and 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 us 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 Christ 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 the 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. 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". Where were you Sunday morning? Somewhere, doing something for which you had more enthusiasm than you had for being a Christian.

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....



**I REALLY DOUBT THAT MEGAPHONE IS
GOING TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED
ANY FASTER**

* * * * *

***It does not take a real smart person to please the
Lord, just an obedient one.***

***An operation is something it takes a doctor a few
yours to perform and the patient years to describe.***

Miscellaneous



September 12, 2021

Invite your family and friends
and plan to be here!

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In order for
the preacher
to fulfill
the Lord's
command
to feed God's
flock, the sheep
must show up
during feeding
times.

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Those To Remember In Prayer

Gene Bradshaw will be having surgery this coming Wednesday in Nacogdoches.

Jerry Pate is scheduled for surgery July 23rd.

Melvin Williams has been moved to Cecil Bomar Re-Hab in Nacogdoches.

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-granddaughter)
Gracie Elam (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery)
Keeth Fontenot (Debra Pate's son) undergoing tests for suspicious knot on his neck
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)
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)cancer.

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.

"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.



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 in me" (John 14:1) A few sentences later he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto 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

**Commitment
Builds
Great
Churches!**