



LET'S VISIT

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PAUL'S WASTEBASKET

Paul's letter to the church at Philippi is one of his most encouraging letters. It was written to a church that was near and dear to his heart. It is not a letter like the first letter he wrote to Corinth. That letter dealt with divisions and immorality within the Corinthian church. It is a letter that has been described as "strong reproofs for a scandalous church".

We read of the beginning of this great church in Philippi in Acts chapter 16. Paul and his company went to the place of prayer and they found Lydia there. The Lord opened her heart and she and her household attended to the things Paul taught and were baptized. In the city there was a young slave girl and Paul cast the evil spirit from her. Well, that made her masters angry and they had Paul and Silas arrested, beaten and thrown into prison. At midnight, they sang and prayed and the prison doors were opened and their chains were loosed. I like to call that the "great prison revival". They taught the way of the Lord to the jailer and his household and they were baptized and converted to Christ.

In this letter to this church, there is a passage in Philippians 3:13-14 that is my favorite passage in this letter. Here is what it says, "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."

We may not want to admit it, but all of us have an imperfect past. All of us can look back and see something we are ashamed of. We all have blemishes and stains. We all have things we'd just as soon no one knew about and that we would like to forget.

As great a saint as Paul was, he was no different than we are. Paul had a pretty ugly past in persecuting the church. I'm guessing that after he

came to know Jesus, he had plenty of time to reflect on the shame of what he had done.

However, we do not have to be a slave to the past. When Paul thought about the kind of life he had lived, he could have just given up. He had put people in prison. More than that, he had put people to death for being Christians. Paul could have insisted there was not hope for him, there was no way the Lord could use him. Yet, Paul insisted he had something worth moving on for.

We must remember that moving on does not happen by accident. Moving on, moving forward, only happens by intentional and determined effort. Paul says, "I press on. I strive, I strain" for what is ahead. He tells us that the goal is worth the effort. In fact, Paul even calls it a prize. When our focus is on living for Jesus, we win! I am firmly convinced that one reason some folks have such a lukewarm relationship with Jesus is they see the work but they don't see the prize.

We can join Paul in this resolve. If our relationship with Jesus has been lukewarm, we can do better. Lukewarm is not what Jesus wants for you and me. Jesus wants us to be on fire for Him, loving Him, serving Him, and living for Him. We can spend more time in the study of the word and in prayer, especially prayer. We can let God speak to us through His word. But, what we need to do more than

(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



*“Living The
Abundant Life”
Rising Above
The Past*

For The Pantry. . .

June 8 – Alfredo Sauce

Offering – June 1, 2025 . . \$ 3,014.00

The Lord’s plan of giving ...”as ye have prospered”

Paul’s Wastebasket – continued from page 1

anything else is spend time talking to God in prayer. We need to tell Him the deepest desires of our heart.

However, we must also throw unforgiveness and resentment in the wastebasket. Let’s be honest. Some of us have been hurt and hurt deeply. Others have just gotten their feelings hurt a little. In any case, often folks hold on to that and refuse to forgive those even who ask our forgiveness.

To be sure, being unable or unwilling to forgive is a dangerous thing to keep in our lives. Jesus said that if we forgive, God will forgive us. He also said if we do not forgive, God will not forgive us.

What Paul is talking about here is starting over. With Jesus Christ we can do that. We can forget the things behind and reach toward the things before us. That is what Paul did. The New Testament is filled with those who made new beginnings. Folks whose life was in tatters and ruins and who had no promise of a bright future. People like Zacchaeus, the woman at Jacob’s well, the woman brought to Jesus who had been caught in adultery and so many others. Through Jesus Christ they made new beginnings, and through Jesus Christ we can also make a new beginning. We can, with Paul, forget the things behind and reach toward the things that are before. We can, we should, we must.

tp

The Christian and Prayer

Do you pray often? Are you sincere in your prayers? How much time per day do you spend in prayer? Is it the opening thing of your day and the closing thing of your night? Are you satisfied with your prayer life?

If you aren’t, there must be some reason that the Christian is being defeated in his praying. What do you suppose would defeat him?

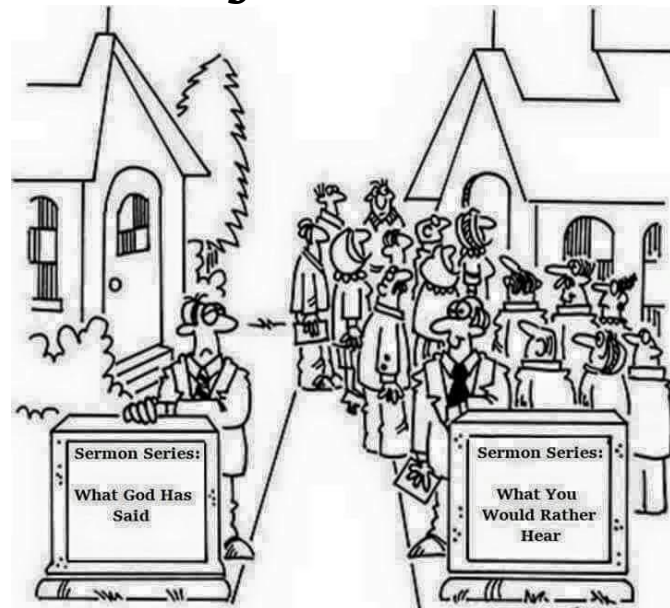
Isn’t it true that the Christian can be so occupied with things that are legitimate and honorable that he simply does not have time to pray? It isn’t wrong to work, it isn’t wrong to make a living, it isn’t wrong to be in conversation with noble friends-but all these things take time. Sometimes the Christian is not the master of his schedule that he should be and he allows too many good things to prohibit him from doing something that is superior – like praying.

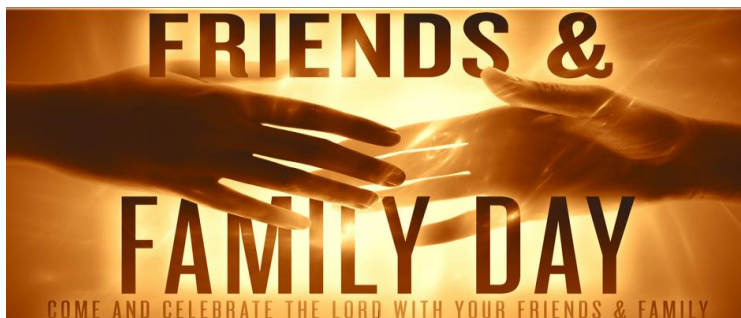
Every conflict that the Christian has however is not with a good thing. Sometimes his worldly associations appetites and occupations take him from praying. From these things, there is but one thing to do – divorce himself.

If the devil can stop the Christian from praying, he can to a certain extent cripple and tie the hands of the church Are you allowing him to do this in your life?

*-Just A Moment
October 28, 1962*

On The Lighter Side. . .





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!

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Communion Preparation for June
Mike & Jana O'Brien

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING – Today, June 8, 2025 immediately following morning worship in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



Wednesday
FELLOWSHIP MEAL

We would love for you to join us on Wednesday Nights for our Mid-Week Bible Study and plan to join us for our next Wednesday Night Meal on June 25, 2025.

We hope you will make your plans to join us not only for this but for our Wednesday night Bible Study every week.

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THE TRUCK FROM SUNNY GLEN will be here the week of June 10th. They are establishing a new pick-up schedule and will be coming approximately every 9 months instead of every 6 months.

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); **Charles Spann** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **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

There was a time when riding the train was the dominant form of travel in our nation. I remember as a boy, going with my father to the depot in Marshall to pick up "Aunt Mary" when she would ride the train from Little Rock for a visit. Well, I read a story from that era not long ago. It seems there was a little crippled boy who was carrying a basket of candy and fruit to sell, hurrying to the passenger gate of the depot as fast as his crutches would permit. As the passengers rushed through the gate, a fast moving young business executive accidentally hit the boy's basket, knocking its contents in every direction. He paused only long enough to severely scold the crippled lad for being in his way.

Another young business man, rushing through the depot, saw the young boy's distress and immediately began picking up the scattered items. After returning all the contents to the basket, he put a dollar bill in the boy's hand. He smiled at his young friend, patted him on the shoulder and said, "better luck next time!" Then he was on his way.

He was however, stopped by the question the boy asked him. He said, "Hey mister, are you Jesus?" Turning, the man smiled and said, "No, I'm only one of His followers."

How different this old world would be if we all would speak and act so that others could see Jesus living in us.

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

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