

Let's Visit

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Flourishing Like The Palm Tree

You read these words in Psalms 92:12; "*The righteous shall flourish like the Palm Tree.*" The Palm tree was popular with the Arab. In fact, there are more than 300 ways in which the various parts of the Palm tree can be utilized.

Actually, in terms of usefulness, there is no other tree equal to the Palm tree. The leaves and seeds of the tree provide sustenance for that mighty "ship of the desert", the camel. The leaves of the tree, which grow some six to eight feet in length are often used to provide the roof for shelter. From the foliage of the Palm tree couches are made and the branches are converted into cages and fences. From the fiber of the tree, thread and rope are spun and from the annual shots come sacks, baskets, fans, hats and sandals. The life of the tree is some 200 years, yet it is most productive from the 30th to the 80th year.

Just like the Palm tree, Jesus also intended that the righteous shall be useful. Remember, Jesus referred to his disciples as the light of the world and the salt of the earth. The colleges, hospitals and places to assist the less fortunate all speak forth in eloquent language the part the righteous have played in giving to the world a finer and better civilization. The righteous are like Jesus who "went about doing good".

Thinking of the analogy of the Psalmist, we contemplate the beauty of the Palm tree as it adorns the country in which it takes root. There is something stately about it. It has a dignity that belongs to it. What is more beautiful than the character of a righteous man? The kind of man spoken of in Psalms chapter 1. The man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, who does not sit in the seat of the scornful. The man whose delight is in

the law of the Lord and who meditates in that law day and night.

The righteous man is planted by the river of water in the purest of soil as is the Palm tree. You see, when young, the Palm tree is a very weak plant. The roots dig down among the foundations of the earth for nourishment. The Christian also must root himself deeply in good soil. It is the hidden roots that give him strength and poise to withstand the fury of the winds and storms of life. As the Palm trees grow, they interlock in root and branch and thereby they strengthen one another. Is that not a beautiful picture of the lives of Christians? The Palm tree, planted alone will die, it needs companionship and protection. In that same way, the Christian also needs the companionship and protection of other Christians.

All that is required of the Palm tree is that it grow and bear fruit. It functions in the place where it is found. It does not attempt to dictate to God, it just plays its part as a Palm tree and lets God present the laws by which it is to prosper. Yet the Palm tree does more than eke out an existence. The Palm tree flourishes. We grow in stature as we comply with the natural laws; we grow in mental ability when we give heed to the laws of both body and mind. We grow spiritually as we conform to the laws of God and as we grow, we bear fruit. The Psalmist would have us to understand that we too, shall grow and we too shall prosper and we shall flourish when we live the kind of life that God wants us to live. That is when we live a righteous life, with the ever present petition on our lips, "Thy will be done"

tp

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"Dejected, Downhearted Disciples"

Our text comes from
Luke 24:21. We need to
learn that Jesus can bring
hope from despair.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Macaroni and Cheese

Our Present Distress. . . .

Paul penned these words to Timothy, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (II Timothy 1:7)

It seems that if we ever needed to hear that message, that time is now. To be sure, the coronavirus is a real thing, it is a serious illness. However, at what point do we cross the line from taking prudent precautions to the point of mass hysteria?

While we must take precautions such as washing our hands, not touching our face, and other common sense measures, we must not let the news media and those who would use this for political gain stampede us into a state of hysteria and irrational fear. We must use the *SOUND MIND* that God has given us to make rational decisions based on good information, not hysterical emotional decisions based on mob mentality.

tp

A Settin' Hen Never Lays...

A settin' hen is miserable. She goes around with her feathers ruffled. Her disposition is reflected by her grumpy "cluck-cluck". She doesn't want to be bothered. She just sets all day long. If you bother her she just pecks you. This makes a "settin' hen" very unattractive. But worse than that, she is miserable. The cause of her misery is simple. It can be explained in two words – no production. You see, a "settin' hen" never lays.

Unproductive Christians are also miserable. To them, service is a duty, and going to worship is drudgery. Their unhappiness is reflected in their complaining. Their misery is shown in their excuses. Too often they don't know that the cause of their misery is their own lack of productivity. They are doing so little that they have lost their enthusiasm for the work.

Have you found Christian service a burden? Don't lay the blame on others, but take a look at yourself. The joy of service is only for those who are serving. The joy of Bible Study and Worship is for those who attend and help in those activities.

-Merle Bryant (1972)

On The Lighter Side.....



OH GREAT, HERE COMES THE CHURCH SPECK
INSPECTOR ... AND HIS BEAM IS BIGGER
THAN EVER TODAY

Miscellaneous

Area Wide Singing Cushing Church of Christ

*Friday
March 27th
7:00 p.m.*



SAVE THE DATE!

April 24th - 26th 2020

Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting

**Austin Wiggins – Guest Speaker
Pulpit Minister – Vidor Church of Christ**

**Remember our Sunday Afternoon Class
5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Jesus Is Still The Great Physician

Jesus is the “Great Physician,” the “world’s teacher”, and the climax is reached in his being a “friend of sinners”.

Jesus was not the “friend of sinners” in that he encouraged them in their sins, but in the fact that he was willing to save them from their sins.

A humble, penitent, contrite heart always appeals to Jesus. Such a condition of heart and life will receive a blessing from the “Great Physician”.

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Those To Remember In Prayer

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Willaims, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our “extended family” to remember in prayer:

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams’ son) **Tim Bartlett** (friend of Betty Miller) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins’ grandfather) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw’s Brother) **Leslie Bradshaw** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw’s sister-in-law), **Bethany Bridges** (Debra Pate’s friend), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate’s great grandson) **Marcus Cruz Cranford** (Sue Hagler’s-great-great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler’s nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O’Brien’s aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher’s brother) **Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher’s sister-in law) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate’s sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden’s brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout’s son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout’s mother) **Mason Matchette** (3 year old injured in 4 wheeler accident) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout’s nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall’s sister-in law) **George McNatt** (Dale Findher’s neighbor) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh’s son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt’s daughter-in-law) **Tanya Johnson** (Alda Yarbrough’s sister-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettaufer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Teresa Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler’s daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller’s sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**, **Amanda Bradshaw** and **Andrew Bradshaw** (Gene and Martha’s son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.



Across The Preacher's Desk

I read something the other day that has a lesson in it for all of us. It seems that a Bible Class Teacher, in order to get her lessons over to her students, would describe some character and ask the class to tell her who the character was. One day, she described Jesus. She told how gentle and kind he was, and how he was always helping others, then she asked the children to tell her who she had described. One little boy said, "That's my neighbor".

That made me stop and think. What impression do our neighbors have of us? Why do they have that impression? It is a proven fact that most of what people think of us we have caused them to think because of our actions. The impression that others get of us will more often than not be given by the way that we live.

What would our neighbors think about us? If someone described Jesus, would our neighbors think they had described us? We must order our lives so that others will see Jesus living in us, we must live His kind of life.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**