



# LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ  
110 Hurst Street      Center, Texas 75935**

**Volume 12**

**Number 9**

**March 2, 2025**

## YES. . . BUT. . .

Do you want to ruin a reputation, backbite with the tongue or slow the progress of the church? If so, here is a choice word to add to your vocabulary. This little word “but” has done much evil in its day, and is destined to do much more. In the mouth of the person who desires to harm others or harm the church, this little word is a choice weapon. Let’s see some ways it is used. Then perhaps that will help us to know, in order to keep from being hurt by its subtle use.

Let’s say that the conversation is about a certain congregation of the Lord’s people. The conversation may have come to this by accident, or it may have been directed to this subject. Nothing can be said that is actually wrong. The work of the group speaks for itself. However, if someone wants to start some thinking in the wrong direction, they might say, “I know they seem to be doing well, the offering is good, and the attendance is holding up, but there is something wrong there. You mark my word, it will come out sooner or later. I can’t say what it is, but I know there is something wrong.” My friends, anyone ought to be able to see the design of this kind of low down talk. Unfortunately there are souls that are so trusting that they fail to understand that there are many who have the disease that calls forth such statements. If they happen to be good people it only bothers them for a short while until they learn better. If they happen to know the weakness of the person, they mark it down as another sign of a growing insanity. If they are like the person making the statement, then they join in with this kind of destructive conversation. Sadly, there are always those who are secretly “rooting” for the church to fail.

Yet, conversations are not always about congregations when such methods are used. They may turn in the direction of some individual in the Lord’s family. It may be the preacher, one of the bible class teachers, or one of the leaders in the congregation. Whoever it is, this person is out to do them harm. The words might sound something like this: “I know he (she) seems to be a good person, but he (she) has you fooled. He (she) has you under his (her) thumb. Someday you will get your eyes opened.” Such statements are designed to cause a person to believe that he is not being treated right; to think that they are being used. Of course the one wanting to use them is now on the job, but this is concealed for the moment to a few unsuspecting souls. Also, if you get a person thinking that someone thinks they have them under their thumb, they will assert their independence. A great deal of grief will be the result, often there is a breaking of the ties of friendship, but the troublemaker will have done his or her job.

Sadly, people do not always work alone in matters of this kind. They may have several that they use in such situations. Sometimes we find a husband and wife team. I have known men who had their wives do most of the dirty work in this kind of thing while they tried to take a very humble and soft-hearted

(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



## *The “Other Words” Peter Spoke*

**For The Pantry. . .  
March 2 – Spam**

**Offering – February 23, 2025 .. \$ 2,275.00**

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

**Yes. . .But. . .– continued from page 1**

approach. Such people must always be watched. The Lord said, “evil men would wax worse and worse.” The church has always had to be on guard against this kind of people. Each time the church failed it has suffered. It is often those who are attempting to be very humble and “love everybody” that have done the most harm to the church. When you hear someone who is always saying, “yes...but...” be careful what you say around them!

*tp*

## ***An Offering or A Collection?***

As the story goes, the family had come home from church and little Bobby followed his mother into the kitchen. He watched with interest as she removed a roasted chicken from the oven. She placed the chicken on the table to cool and she left to set the dining table in the adjoining room.

Well, it seems that when she returned to the kitchen, she caught Bobby in the act of cutting off a leg of the chicken. He pleaded with his mother that he wanted the drumstick to feed his dog, but mother informed him in a not so gentle manner that the chicken was for the family dinner.

After dinner, Bobby collected the bones from the table and took them to his dog and explained,

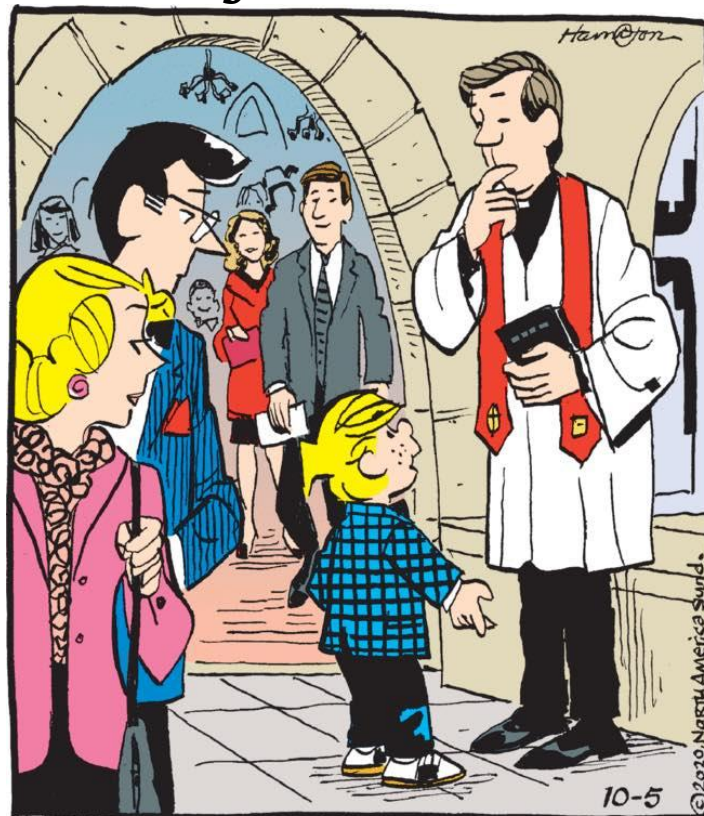
“Well, Rover, I really wanted to bring you and offering today, but it turned out to be just another collection.

As you well know, that old story has been around for a long time. Usually when we tell that story, it is to emphasize the importance of proper stewardship of our material possessions. Yet, have we ever thought about that story in relation to stewardship of other things that God has entrusted to our care?

How about our time? What kind of offering does God receive of the time that he has given us? An hour on Sunday morning? What about the mid-week Bible Study time on Wednesday? What about the Sunday morning Bible class? Do we really love the Lord and love His church when we can’t find the time to serve Him? How much time do we devote to the study of God’s word and to prayer and to telling others about our Savior, Jesus Christ? Let’s give the Lord an offering not only from our material possessions, but also of our time.

*tp*

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



**“I LIKED THAT PART ABOUT THE FATHER  
AND HIS SON’S HOLY GOATS.”**



### 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) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) 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) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's 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.**

**April 25-27, 2025** – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.

**June 1, 2025** – Covered Dish Luncheon

**September 7, 2025** – Friends & Family Day

**December 7, 2025** – No Excuse Sunday

**December 21, 2025** – Annual Christmas Party

**PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

\* \* \* \* \*

*After washing her face, a little girl looks in the mirror to see if her face is clean, but a little boy looks on the towel to see if his face is clean.*

*The mind is like the stomach.*

*It is not how much you put into it that counts,  
But rather how much it digests.*

*The first step to knowledge is to know  
that we are ignorant.*



## **Sunday March 2nd**

We hope you are making your plans to stay and join us for our fellowship meal following our worship this morning.

Hospitality Group 1 is in charge of the luncheon that day. The members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

\* \* \* \* \*



Our next Wednesday Fellowship meal will be on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing together.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**



### **PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!**

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

**Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker**





## Across The Preacher's Desk

The cross on Calvary's hill was already casting its shadow over Jesus and he had just finished eating the Passover with the twelve. Sitting there at the table, he told them that one of them was going to betray him. He told them he was only going to be with them a little while and then he told them how they were to love. He said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Yet, even though Jesus tells us to love one another, if we are honest, most of us don't really want to love. We would much rather be loved. We are always looking for someone we can go to in times of trouble. Someone who will listen to us, someone who will care and comfort us. We want to be loved.

We like to go to other people, but when they come to us do we find them to be something of a nuisance? We like for others to care for us and comfort us in times of trouble but do we find it a bother when others want us to care and comfort them in times of trial?

If we are honest, most of us will have to admit that we like the privilege of being loved but find the duty of loving others to be disturbing. If we want to please the Lord, we must learn to love as Jesus did. It's not optional.

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

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