



LET'S VISIT

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

Volume 11

Number 12

March 24, 2024

GOOD INTENTIONS

All of my life I have heard of what we call good intentions, and have wondered if there really is such an animal. By good intentions, I suppose people mean intentions to do good. To be sure, I have never seen an individual who was full of these good intentions who was actually very faithful in making them a reality. I mean by this, a person who has the good intentions only. Let's take a look at some of those we hear almost daily and see how good they really are.

Have you ever heard someone make the statement, "I intend to start serving the Lord"? This person has perhaps not been faithful in attending the worship assembly and they know they should be there. Their conscience bothers them a bit because of what they know they should be doing, but also they know what they are not doing. I do not question their sincerity when they state their intention. However, so often they never live to see their intention become a reality. Often, over the years, I have heard the intention used with a "qualifying statement". Something such as, I intend to get started attending worship when I can get my affairs straightened out", or "when my health is better" or "when the weather improves". Yet, you will seldom find this person with anything more than intentions. It is a fact of human nature that once you get in the habit of allowing other things to crowd out service to God, it is difficult to ever break this habit. The devil knows this and uses as his chief enticement the satisfaction of believing you have performed a duty by putting it off. Practices like this not only become a habit, but a disease that eats the heart out of a person. It will finally cause them to despise the person who is

constantly trying to help them back to their duty. It will develop in their heart a feeling of remorse concerning the worship of God, and may actually lead them to deny God. It will open their heart for the false doctrines of denominationalism and atheism, and may finally result in their despising God. Those who are filled with good intentions only are diseased.

Someone else says, "I know I am not as liberal with God as I should be and I intend to start giving more to God." Usually they will rationalize something like this: "I will give more when my business gets better; when I do not have to spend so much on my family; when it does not take so much to stay in good health; when my ship comes in; when I get this or that or something else paid for." Over the last nearly 55 years of preaching, I have known many people who were otherwise good people but were afflicted with this disease. I do not remember ever finding many who actually fulfilled these intentions. If we allow ourselves to hold out on God one time, we will find it easier to do it the next time. Where did we ever get the idea that it was right to hold out on God. If God's part comes first as He has taught us it should, there are few if any circumstances that will

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
KSLA 12 - Shreveport - 11:00 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 373 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Christ on Trial

**For The Pantry. . .
March 24 – Rice**

Offering – March 17, 2024. . . . \$2,893.00

The Lord's plan of giving . . . "as ye have prospered"

Good Intentions – continued from page 1

change conditions. What is more important than pleasing God? If someone interested in their soul makes reference to this weakness it causes them to shrink like a coward. Oftentimes, this individual becomes a constant complainer and sometimes even a disbeliever rather than be honest and fair with God.

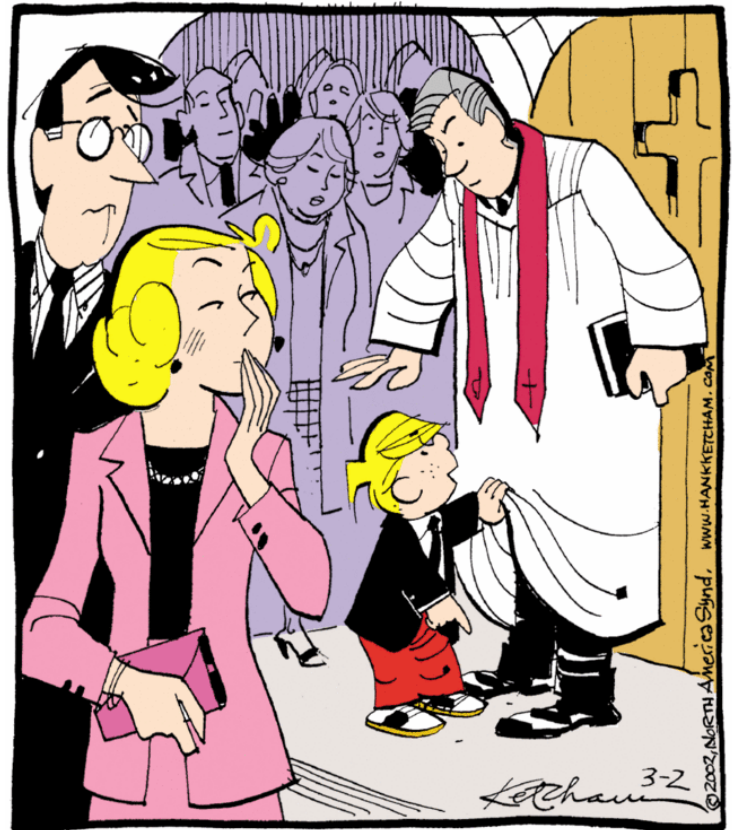
Then, there are others who say, "we intend to get started coming to the Bible Class just as soon as the hot weather is over; or the cold weather is gone, or when we don't have company; when we feel kike it; when someone asks me; or when there is a change in my life circumstances". Tragically, this person has the same disease as the others we have mentioned. They are forced to make a decision between their own desires and God. They do not want to deliberately refuse God. They know how dangerous that is. They want to keep their cake and eat it so they stifle their soul with intentions and laugh in the face of God.

These three intentions are only the beginning. If we will be honest, we can locate many more. Perhaps we have not been guilty of any of these three, but they will help us to make a thorough examination of ourselves so we may find we are perhaps guilty of others.

Good intentions only serve to warp the soul and remove it from right living. The great tragedy is that people who have "good intentions" seldom become faithful to God. Is there really such an animal as "good intentions"?

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On The Lighter Side. . .



**"HOW COME YOU'RE NOT WEARING RUNNING SHOES?
MY DAD SAID IT WAS A MARATHON SERMON."**

*A good intention requires the
support of a good action in
order to translate into a positive
outcome!*



AREA WIDE SINGING!



Mark your calendar for Friday, April 26, 2024. We will be hosting an Area Wide Singing. Make your plans to be here, invite your friends and neighbors to

come and plan to stay for a time of fellowship after the singing.

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Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal March 27, 2024



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Upcoming Area Events

ANNUAL GOSPEL SINGING – March 29, 2014 at the Cushing Church of Christ in Cushing, Texas. The singing starts at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

GOSPEL MEETING – San Augustine Church of Christ, April 7-10, 2024. Ivie Powell will be doing the preaching.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

April 26, 2024 – Area Wide Singing

June 2, 2024 – Covered Dish Luncheon

September 8, 2024 – Friends & Family Day

December 8, 2024 – No Excuse Sunday

December 15, 2024 – Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Gail Foster (Cancer) Bobbie Gray (Jerry Pate's Aunt) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Glynn Hartt (friend of Cissy Amos) Joe Hughes (Cissy Amos' father) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Verven Pate (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. Stephanie Richard (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; Traci Roden (friend of Norma Perkins) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Michael Smith (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; Buddy Sowell (friend of Debra Pate) Suellen Swank (friend of Norma Perkins) J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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Let us make a new rule of life: always try to be a little kinder than is necessary.

If some people had an operation to remove their conscience, it would be minor surgery.

54 in 24
Invite Someone Each Week!



Across The Preacher's Desk

“For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away.” The writer of the book of James pictures for us here the brevity of life. Without question, life is fleeting. If you doubt the validity of that statement, just read the obituaries. Yet, what is your life individually? That is the question.

Some lives are like a beautiful flower as it blooms and gladdens the earth with its lovely form and cheering color, sending a fragrance as of the sweet smelling incense of the creator. Others, like the song of the birds, overflow with joy. Often the birds are so full of song they cannot finish singing during the day and continue into the darkness of night. In that same way, optimistic lives sing. Paul and Silas sang in the midnight darkness of the Roman jail until the prison was shaken to its very foundation.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our lives could be like that? Rooted to the earth, but living above its darkness, despair and gloom, sending songs of joy into the hearts of those who would stop to listen.

A portion of God's great power has been given to each of us, and it is largely up to us to fashion our own lives. Not alone, but by living within the will of God.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**