



LET'S VISIT

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IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE

In our bulletin last week, we wrote about how to ruin a reputation or destroy someone's character by the words we use. Well, this week we want to build on that thought just a little. Grandmother always had a lot of "sayings". She always was telling me, "willful waste makes woeful want". I didn't really understand when I was younger and used to ask her who woeful was. Another of her favorites was, "one man's meat is another man's poison." She also said, "if you can't say something nice about someone, then don't say anything at all". In fact, I am certain that all of you have heard that during your life. It reminds me of the story of the old woman who always had something good to say about anything and anybody. One day, someone said to her, "You know, I believe you would find something good to say about the devil." The dear old saint replied, "Well, he is always busy." Tragically, the truth of that statement cannot be denied. He is always busy and he has always fought against the peace of God's people. He started in the early morning of time with the first family and has been busy ever since. He brought jealousy and envy into that family and finally murder. When we study the history of man on the earth, we see this work of the devil in almost every generation. He is not interested in peace but in division. If he can sow discord he knows that finally a good work will be destroyed. Of course, all of the work the devil does is done through men and women. "United we stand, divided we fall" is a truth that has always existed. Whether we face this problem as a community, nation, family, or church, the truth is always the same. Unity always brings about prosperity. Discord brings failure. God realized the evil of sowing discord when He inspired Solomon to write these words in Proverbs 6:16-19,

"These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him; A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

In his plans for sowing discord, the devil has always been very subtle. He is the master deceiver and makes believe that they are only fighting for what is right. Guess what, Hitler believed that. Saddam Hussein believed that. You see, men fight for what they believe to be right. So all the old devil needs to do is convince people that it is their duty to thus fight and discord will come. In his work through men and women, he is clever enough to hide the real cause, and often the person in back of the act stays hidden also. So it usually begins as a "whisper". Someone says, "I really shouldn't say this, but I am just concerned about things at church, and I know you are..." You see, there are always people who are gullible enough to be used. If they are worked up to a certain point you can be sure they will carry out the purpose of the person who so worked them up! Such a person always knows to whom he or she should go in order to get their work done and spread their poison. They will always select someone who does not know enough to know that they are being used.

(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



How Did You Know You Were Naked?

**For The Pantry. . .
March 9 – Pasta Sauce**

Offering – March 2, 2025 . . \$ 2,290.00

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

If You Can't Say . . . - continued from page 1

to the person bent on sowing discord and creating mischief among the people of God, it does not matter if the person being talked about is sacrificed or not. The devil will sacrifice anyone and anything to gain his point and destroy the unity of the people of God. Since he works through men and women, you can easily see that this same attitude will often exist in the hearts of folks. This is why often good churches are destroyed from within by people who are crying about their loyalty to God. Those who think can see the real issue, but not all people think for themselves and that is why the old devil often has his way. May the Lord help us to be always on our guard, and not allow any man to do that which the Lord hates – sow discord among the brethren.

tp

Love Is Central To Our Faith

One of the things I miss from my childhood is the fireplace we had in our home. We actually had two of them. I can remember many cold, dreary winter mornings laying in bed, pulling the covers up tight and hearing the sound of my father chopping kindling to get a fire going. It was still dark outside,

there were coals in the fireplace from the fire during the night, but dad wanted to make sure there was a big fire going before my mom and I would get up in the mornings. Those roaring fires he built would fill the room with cheer and brightness as their radiant warmth pushed away the frigid winter dreariness.

The love that Jesus taught and demonstrated has that same transforming quality. When Paul wrote the First Corinthian letter, he would tell us in that great chapter on love in verse 13, "but the greatest of these is love". Love is our greatest weapon against the cold selfishness and deep despair of the world around us. Just like the old family fireplace was central to the warmth of our home in the winter, so love is central to our Christian faith. Without love, there is no Christian. With love, the Christian has need of little else.

They tell the story that when John became too old to preach, and too weak to walk to worship services, his friends would carry him on a stretcher. They would place his stretcher on the floor and he would say over and over to those who passed by, "little children, love one another." Some finally grew weary of his ceaseless repetition and asked why he always said the same thing. "because" he replied, "it is the Lord's command, and if only this is done, it is enough".

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



**GOTCHA!!! ... SIMON DIDN'T SAY 'YOU
MAY BE SEATED'**



Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting

April 25th, 26th and 27th

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25th - 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26th - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker

Norma Perkins, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien, Melonia Molloy and Marsha Bounds are in charge of the Hospitality for both the singing on Friday night and the Luncheon on Sunday.

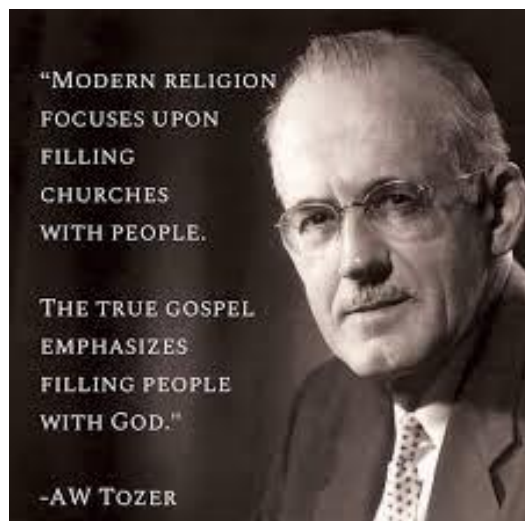
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Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

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

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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.

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!

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Asked to write an essay on water, little Tommy, after chewing on his pencil for a long time, wrote:

"Water is a wet liquid that turns dark when you wash in it."

God is in control! But, He doesn't expect you to lean on a shovel and pray for a hole.

Gossips are people who put two and two together And usually get Twenty-two.



Across The Preacher's Desk

It was at a wedding feast, in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first miracle. They had run out of wine, a real social miscue in that day and time. So, Mary told Jesus the problem and then told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. Well, you remember the story. Jesus changed 6 water pots filled with water into wine, better wine than they had before.

Yet, the greatest example of the transforming power of Jesus Christ is not that He was able to change water into wine. The greatest example of the transforming power of Jesus is how He can change lives. He took a blustering fisherman named Simon, a creature of impulse and made him into a rock of Christ like character. He found a "thunderbolt" named John, a man capable of such hot hate that he wanted to call down fire from heaven on a Samaritan village and changed him into the Apostle of love. He took a greedy tax collector named Matthew and used him to write one of the gospels. There was a demon possessed woman named Mary who became the first person to spread the word of the resurrection. Then, who can forget the intellectual giant named Paul, the greatest menace that existed to the early church, and he was transformed to be the world's greatest preacher.

The same Jesus who changed those lives will change every life that surrenders to him. Would you surrender your will to His will?

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

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