

# Let's Visit

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## Thanksgiving In Times of Trouble

This coming Thursday, we will celebrate what we refer to as "Thanksgiving Day". To my mind, the "Thanksgiving Season" is one of the happiest times of the year and among the happiest celebrations we enjoy. We have family gatherings, good food, happy fellowship, delicious dinners, football games, plentiful deserts, and did I mention good food? For the moment at least, all of these things lift us above the common place things of life and the troubles that confront us. and cause us concern. If you have turned on the news, you are aware that we are living in a troubled time in the history of our world and in the history of our nation. To be sure, things are in a chaotic state of affairs. Inflation is running rampant, there are those who want to completely destroy our nation as we have known it and basic decency, honesty and morality seem to have little or no place in public life. We often are made to wonder what the future holds for us. As we pause this year for what we call "Thanksgiving Day", in times like these, do we have anything to be thankful for?

There is no doubt that our world is a troubled and sick world. However, there have always been people who could be thankful in troubled times. Thanksgiving as we know it in America had its beginning in 1621, when the Pilgrims got a feast together and invited the Indians to be their guests. The previous winter had been a terrible one and half their little band had died. Their houses were poor and the food was not too plentiful, but they were grateful. Being grateful, they set aside "an especial day in which to give thanks for all their mercies." Barley and Indian corn made up their crops; the peas were not worth gathering. Meat, there was none except such wild game as could be found in the

surrounding forests. It took courageous hearts to give thanks in times like those, but they did.

Read if you will the first 6 verses of the 137<sup>th</sup> Psalm. At the time that Psalm was written, the Jews were in the midst of the Babylonian captivity, which they had brought on themselves by their refusal to obey Jehovah. When their captors demanded that they sing for them, they cried out, "How can we sing Jehovah's song in a strange land?" But they did. They found that God could be there as well as in Jerusalem and they prospered so greatly that few of them even returned when they could.

When Jesus gave thanks at the instituting of the Lord's Supper, he gave thanks for a body which was soon to be broken, while others give thanks because they have a body which is not broken. Paul and Silas, in a Roman prison with backs bleeding, sang songs of praise unto God (Acts 16). Paul made it a practice to give thanks anyway, although he was hated and despised and hounded like a wild beast. In fact, he would write, (I Thessalonians 5:18) "*In everything give thanks.*"

Let's pause and be thankful. Let's be thankful we live in America. Let's be thankful for Christian homes where children are cared for and love may thrive. Let's be thankful for Jesus. He came to earth, He went to the cross, He redeemed my soul from sin and He is preparing my eternal home. Let's make sure we are thankful for the blessing of life.

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### In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSLA 12 – 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



## Today's Sermon

### "Thanksgiving, No Matter What"

Our text comes from Habakkuk 3:17-19. Our circumstances can change, conditions around us may be altered. However, we can be thankful that God never changes.

## FOR THE PANTRY....

### Macaroni and Cheese

## *The Sunday With No Absentees!*

I remember reading of a congregation that had producing oil wells on the church property. On the Sunday when the income from the wells is to be distributed among the members of the congregation there is a 100% attendance. Their rule is if a member is absent that day he or she loses their part of the oil income.

My guess is that Aunt Sally, whose parents forced her to go to services when she was a child, and now doesn't want to go, was there, and on time. Or even Uncle Fred, who hasn't been well enough to go any place but to town for years would now be there.

The folks who had some place to go visiting would surely find some other time to go besides Sunday, if that were the Sunday when the money was being passed out. Even those who work all week and only have Sunday off would be up early and on time.

But Christians, who, through pure carelessness or indifference miss the worship with the saints, lose something of far greater value than money and they begin a course of indifference that endangers the soul. And then, the church suffers the loss of their presence, their influence, and their

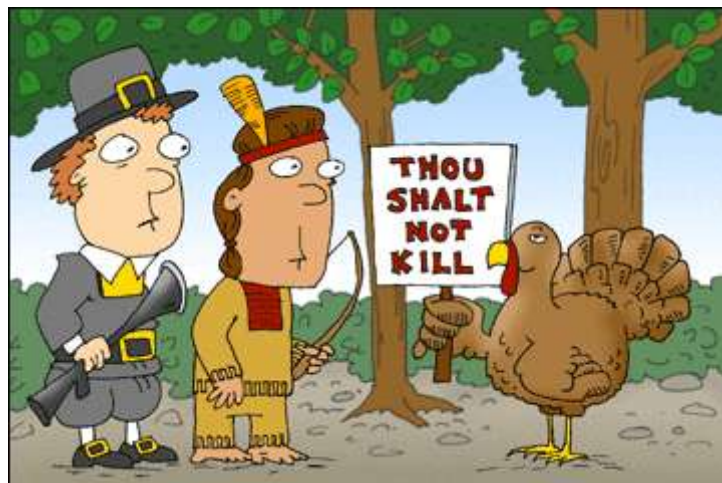
contribution to the work of the Lord, however small they may think it is.

We will not be distributing income check from any oil royalties on any Lord's day in the near future. We also have no plans to have a drawing for a big screen color television and we have not scheduled any special singing groups to come and entertain during the worship hour. Yet, every Lord's Day we sing praises to the God of heaven, approach the throne of God through the avenue of prayer, study from God's revelation to man, return a part of our material possessions to the Lord through the offering and celebrate the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins through the Lord's Supper. Every Lord's day we expect the presence of Jesus in our assembly and we would love to have those who are part of this congregation present for worship. Make your plans to meet and assemble with the Saints of God every week, invite others to come and join you but don't hold your breath waiting for the royalty checks to be distributed.

*Tp*

*NOTE: Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> we will not be distributing any royalty checks, however, we have designated it as "No Excuse Sunday" and we hope you will be here and invite others to come and join us that day. Though we might not distribute "royalty checks" for use in this world, we are laying up treasure in heaven!*

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



# Miscellaneous

## Mark Your Calendar! "No Excuse Sunday"



Sunday  
December 5<sup>th</sup>

Covered Dish  
Luncheon

Make Your Plans  
To Be Here!

**ATTENDANCE GOAL - 52**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dwight  
L.  
Moody**



Moses spent  
forty years  
thinking he was  
somebody;  
forty years  
learning he was  
nobody;  
and forty years  
discovering what  
God can do with  
a nobody.

*The hardest person in the world to love is the one  
who needs your love the most.*

*Someone once said that if Moses had formed a  
committee, the Israelites would still  
be in the wilderness.*

*If fault-finding were electrified, some folks would  
be powerhouses.*



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,  
Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted and Joyce Holt,  
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Melvin Williams

### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair  
(friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's  
niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back  
surgery John Fincher (Dale Fincher's uncle) Gayle Foster  
(Cancer) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew)  
Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Julia Keffer (Bobbi  
Holder's mother) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'brien,) cancer :  
Liam Martinez (11 months old ) Lamar McCormick  
(friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith  
(Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Katilyn  
Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie Tate  
(Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law)  
Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw  
Jeremiah Soape and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill  
out a card and put it in the offering plate.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Faith and Works. . .

An old Scotsman operated a small row-boat for transporting passengers across one of the little lakes in Scotland. One day, a passenger noticed that he had carved on one oar the word "Faith" and on the other oar the word "Works". Curiosity prompted him to ask the ferryman the meaning of this.

The old man said, "I will show you". He dropped one oar and plied the other called "Works" and the boat just went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and began to ply the one called "Faith". The little boat again went around in circles. This time in the opposite direction.

After this demonstration the old man picked up both "Faith" and "Works" and plying both oars together the little boat sped swiftly across the water. "You see," he said, "That is how it is in the Christian life." It takes faith and works.

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## Across The Preacher's Desk

Peter was writing about Jesus when he penned these words in I Peter 2:21, "Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps". Those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus should examine our lives and see how we are doing at following in the steps of Jesus.

Those footsteps of Jesus led him to the waters of baptism, the wilderness of temptation, the house of worship and the fields of Service. They led him to the mountain of prayer, the garden of despair, the cross of suffering, the valley of death and ultimately to the throne of God.

When we are faced with temptation, do we come forth victorious as Jesus did or do we yield to that temptation? When we are presented with opportunities of service to our fellowman do we consider it an honor to be of service? The briefest biography of Jesus says "he went about doing good". Can that be said of us?

Jesus went to sinners to save them, to the sick to heal them and to the lost to rescue them. When he went to the mountain of prayer, he spent time there all alone with God and came back from prayer stronger.

When we follow in the steps of Jesus, they will ultimately lead us also to the throne of God, to live eternally in Heaven. Let's make sure we are following in His steps and living His kind of life.

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

**No Excuse Sunday!**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Our Goal - 52**