

Let's Visit

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Never Lose Hope!

"There are no hopeless situations, there are only men who have grown hopeless about them." No statement with more truth was ever spoken than this. We have seen many people grow hopeless, but we have never seen any situation that could not be taken care of by those who refused to lose their ability to believe and hope. We can find many applications for our spiritual life in this statement.

We have seen churches start out to do big things for God, work for a time, and then give up and fall back, perhaps even lower than they were before beginning. When you hear men excusing the situation you may hear such statements as, "That church has reached its peak." Or how about this one, "Congregations are like the tide, they rise and fall." Then there is always, "well, you know they were going to fail". You can make your own choice, but I refuse to believe such statements. Many congregations have been hurt, almost beyond repair by allowing this kind of attitude to develop. An attitude of negativity and defeatism. An attitude that ultimately the church in (whatever community or city) is destined to fail and close its doors. This kind of attitude lacks the staying qualities that lead to success. Those who allow such to develop in their thinking and actions certainly will not admit that they have been the cause of nor contributed to the failure. Therefore it must be blamed on something that never existed. There may be many reasons why men grow hopeless, but there is no excuse for shifting the blame on something that never happened.

Then there are those who are doing the Lord's work who allow this to happen. Naturally, the same thoughts mentioned earlier will apply to an individual, for a church is made up of many

individuals. But there is a more personal application that can be made. You may find it in every walk of life. There are many people in the world who are easily discouraged. No important work was ever done without some things that are not exactly as we would have them. Many works are started and then left by those who become discouraged and if they are ever finished it will be by someone who has better sense than to become easily discouraged. Please understand, I realize that all of us have our moments when things do not seem to go right. Have those moments, but don't let them get the best of you. There is away to succeed in every worthwhile undertaking, if we will seek that way. Many congregations over the years have been hurt by those who could come in, find things difficult and hard, and refusing to face the facts of life would quit and move on. It is an unfortunate situation when this happens to a congregation. In fact, it is most unfortunate for anyone to allow hopelessness to get the best of them.

Maybe you find an application of this in that person you have been trying to bring to church or that person you have been encouraging to come back to the Lord. There are reasons, sometimes, that an individual might want to believe that a situation is hopeless. But oftentimes, about the time you think you should give up, you are about to succeed. Don't give up. Try Again!

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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

"Jesus Calls Us To Serve"

Our text comes from Luke 10:25-37. It's the story that we commonly refer to as the "Good Samaritan". It teaches us the value of service to our fellowman to be like Jesus.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Liquid Laundry Detergent

My Price

"And I said unto them, if ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter; a goodly price that I was praised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." (Zechariah 11:12-13) These are the words which Matthew said were fulfilled when they bargained with Judas to sell his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. (Matthew 27:9-10)

Matthew says the price was the value they placed on the Lord. They considered thirty pieces of silver the value of Christ. Thirty pieces of silver in that day represented the price of a common slave. Hence, Judas sold his Lord for the amount he could have expected to receive for any other healthy man who might be sold at public auction. The enemies had no idea of making a slave out of him, but they bought the right to kill him. A slave, when bought, belonged to them to do with as they would and though in the real sense this was not represented, yet in the price we can easily see it.

What price do you place on the Lord? Of what value is He to you? When you answer this question you will answer the next one. What value do you place on the church of our Lord? We cannot place a value on Christ without placing the same value on the church for they cannot be separated. Paul declared that the church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23) and He is the head of the body. You cannot separate Christ from his body. So when we value Him we must value His church. When we place value on His church we do so by the manner in which we conduct ourselves toward it. If we are covetous in our gifts or service we show how little we value the Lord. If we are not interested in the various services of the church, we reveal a very low value that we have placed on it, and hence a low value on Christ. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Many of God's people are selling their divine birthright for no more than that. When a person deliberately chooses some other place to the house of God when time comes for worship, he has placed more value on the other and sold his divine right to God's approval. When one will deliberately invest money in worldly enterprises that should be invested in the work of the church, he is thereby placing a greater value on things of the world and is selling his right to the blessings that one receives in the church of our Lord. It is of no value for one to say "I would gladly die for the church" when he has done nothing for it. The Lord knows what is in the heart. The person who has such an attitude can find plenty to do that will show that he will place that value on the church. There is no use for one to wait to demonstrate his price. We have opportunities every day. But we do not consider the importance of using the opportunities that come our way. We are waiting for someone to come with a sword. That will not likely happen to us. We are fortunate that we still have freedom of worship in America. But we don't have to wait for a sword. We have many opportunities around us. People need to be saved. The gospel needs to be carried to the lost. The value we place on the church will determine how seriously we work in that which is before us. What is your price? What value are you placing on the Lord?

-Cleon Lyles

Miscellaneous

SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN'S HOME -The truck from Sunny Glen Children's home will be here the week of November 19, 2020. They have specifically requested Liquid laundry Detergent specifically along with the other items we have in our pantry.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Sunday, December 6, 2020 we will be having a covered dish luncheon and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February. Make your plans to be here!

Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you



Those To Remember In Prayer

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

Roxie Bostick (back issues); **Gene Bradshaw** (Pending surgery); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother); **Myrtle Turner** (Norma Perkins' mother) **Charles Williams** (Janice Williams brother-in-law)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

**Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate**

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

On The Lighter Side.....



The Gospel

The Gospel is the message of the ages to all the souls of men for all the ills of men. It reaches down from high heaven to lift earth from low depths. It comes from the light of the world to banish the darkness of the world. It is a heavenly lifeline reaching down, inviting perishing humanity to reach up. It is a straight gospel for a crooked world, a saving gospel for a lost world, the whole gospel for the whole world.

To broken hearts the gospel applies the healing balm from the cleansing fountain. To dark hearts it applies the torch of truth. To hard hearts it applies the hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. To lonely hearts it comes as a messenger of companionship to fill the soul's living room with friendly fellowship.

The gospel is God's power to save believers. It is the testimony of the Spirit to convince skeptics. It is the heavenly instrument to turn men from darkness, and from the power of Satan unto God.

The gospel cannot save you in your sins, but from your sins. It will add you to and make you a member of the church of our Lord. It does not save unconditionally, but according to the terms of pardon and peace found in it.

The conditions of the gospel are met in this world and in this life. But its rewards flow through the world to come and eternity to be. Woe to the unfortunate who neglect, fail or refuse to believe and receive and obey and live this living word for our living Lord.

*-A. C. Williams
Minister's Monthly*



Across The Preacher's Desk

It was only a couple of months ago that Hurricane Laura blew into our world. Trees were blown down around us, we were without power, some for several days, and life was generally disrupted. I remember that morning when the power went off. I immediately went to the cabinet for a flashlight, and the very first one I picked up had no light. The batteries were dead.

Well, I was thinking about that the other day, and I thought how much that is like so many of us. It is disheartening, in the darkness to have a flashlight with dead batteries. Yet, how much more tragic in a world of darkness and sin to find followers of Jesus whose spiritual batteries are dead. Jesus told his followers to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven". Yet, how many followers of Jesus in our day and time are failing to shine their light because their spiritual batteries are dead? A Christian with a dead battery is as useless as a flashlight with a dead battery.

In order for our spiritual batteries to remain at full charge, we must be living our lives within the will of God. We must be seeking opportunities to meet God at His house for Worship. Our batteries are charged as we speak to God in prayer, let God speak to us through His word and spend time having fellowship with other Christians.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**