

# Let's Visit

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



Volume 8

Number 36

October 10, 2021

## I Am Not Ashamed

As the Apostle Paul sat writing the letter to the Romans, he was contemplating a trip to Rome. He wanted to preach the gospel in the capital city. When this letter was written, Christianity did not occupy the position in the world it does today. In the mind of the ordinary Roman, the Jew was almost always regarded with contempt. In the same way, when the Christian was at all distinguished from the Jew, it was only to be the subject of more reproachful terms than those reserved for the Jew. Some of the most eminent and well informed of the Roman writers speak of the Christian religion as a pernicious and detestable superstition.

Paul had been subjected to many indignities and he had endured much suffering for the preaching of the gospel. He had been flung aside by his own nation. He had been cast out of Antioch of Pisidia, stoned at Lystra, beaten and imprisoned at Philippi and had fled from Thessalonica to avoid his enemies. He had been mocked by the philosophers at Athens, persecuted at Corinth and a great mob at Ephesus had sought to do him harm. Yet, Paul had not been ashamed of the gospel at Athens and he would not be ashamed of the gospel in Rome. In fact, here is what he wrote, "*I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*" (Romans 1:14-16)

I can say with Paul that I also am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. I am not ashamed to say that I believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. Though this is not a popular idea with many today,

and is especially not popular with those who are worldly educated and is certainly not popular in our secularly progressive society, I still believe it. Moreover, I am not ashamed to confess that I believe that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary as was foretold by Isaiah in his prophecy chapter 7 and verse 14. Yet, there are many today, many who are filling pulpits in leading religious groups who consider the idea of a virgin birth to be a crude, semi-pagan story.

I am not ashamed to say that I believe that Jesus performed the miracles ascribed to him in the New Testament, that his moral and spiritual teachings are without parallel in all of history, and that I am not ashamed of the example of Jesus.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. There are many who regard Jesus Christ as a great teacher and as a wonderful character. Yet, many of these are ashamed of his gospel. They are ashamed of something that is to be preached to the whole world.

The gospel of Christ is the message of forgiveness of sins through faith in the crucified Christ. It offers the remedy for the sins of the world. It gives hope to us as individuals and changes the life of those who obey it. When the Hebrew writer wrote about Jesus, he put it this way, "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he*

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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

### "The Misunderstood Church" – The Importance of Baptism in Salvation

We have been talking about "Restoration". Baptism is an important part of Salvation. If it were not important, Jesus would not have commanded it and Peter would not have told those on Pentecost to be baptized.

## FOR THE PANTRY....

Rice

### I Am Not Ashamed - continued from page 1

*became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Hebrews 5:8-9)*

When Paul penned those words to the Romans, the gospel was then and is not the power of God unto salvation to those who would be obedient to the terms of pardon that were laid down by our Lord. Make your resolve to not be ashamed of the gospel and tell someone about Jesus.

tp

## For Sale

One cross, nearly new. I cannot carry it and keep up with the world and its crowd.

One talent, new except slightly shelf-worn. It has been laid away for years in a napkin.

One five-piece set of armor. All pieces are in good shape; only needs polishing.

One bundle of Christian opportunities. Contained in this bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world, and that is of going to my church every Sunday. Another one is the opportunity of being a soul-winner. I seldom use these opportunities, so have decided to let them go for sale.

One badly used Christian influence. Buyer may be able to repair this influence if carefully handled.

The above mentioned articles are stored in the garage of my home, located on the corner of Careless Avenue and Neglect Street.

-borrowed

## On The Lighter Side....



I HAVE LED A VERY LONG AND EVENTFUL LIFE ... YOU BETTER DIP ME AGAIN

## Too Busy

A business man, harassed and discouraged from overwork took his problem to a psychiatrist who promptly told him to do less work. "Furthermore," prescribed the doctor, "I want you to spend an hour each week in the cemetery." "What on earth do you want me to do that for? What should I do in the cemetery?" "Not much. Take it easy and look around. Get acquainted with some of the men already in there permanently and remember that they didn't finish their work either. Nobody does, you know."

Well, it's so isn't it. Perhaps many of us become involved in so many responsibilities and affairs of life that we feel we have no time to give to faithful worship of God. No time for anything but "making a living." We just can't take off from our regular routine. Yes you can. And furthermore, you will some day and permanently. And the world will go right on without you just as it has done with countless thousands of people who, like you, thought they just had to attend to a multiplicity of matters before they met their obligations to God. Think it over.

- Just A Moment

# Miscellaneous

## Mark Your Calendar!



Sunday  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Our Next Covered  
Dish Luncheon

Make Your Plans  
To Be Here!

## Someone Else

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

Whenever you are asked to help in the work of the church, remember, we cannot depend on Someone Else anymore.

- Selected



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

#### 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; Katelyn 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 and Lucas Tate

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

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## Some "tid-bits" to ponder.....

*There is one thing to be said for ignorance – it causes a lot of interesting arguments.*

*The best way to prevent a nose-bleed is to keep it out of other people's business.*

*Isn't it a shame that our mistakes cannot be sold for as much as they cost.*

*If you think it would be impossible for you to love your enemies, then in all probability you should treat your friends a little better.*

*It is often difficult for those who have nothing to say to keep quiet.*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

The cross on Calvary's hill was already casting its shadow on Jesus when he told the disciples to "love one another" (John 13:34) and then He said, "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35)

Sadly, of all the commands Jesus gave, this is more talked about and less obeyed than any of them. If we mean anything when we profess to have love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, it should show itself in our dealings with them.

Love is to be the grand characteristic and distinguishing mark of the followers of Jesus. Notice, Jesus does not name gifts or miracles as being the mark of a Christian. He says it is love. A grace within the reach of the poorest, lowliest believer on the face of the earth.

We can have sound doctrinal opinions, we can be completely orthodox in our view of the Gospel and still be wanting in the eyes of Jesus. If we in our daily lives, give way to ill-temper, malice, envy, quarrelling, squabbling, bickering, surliness, passion, snappish language and cross words, we are not exemplifying Jesus in our lives. It is useless for us to talk about justification and regeneration unless others can see in us practical Christian love as Jesus commands.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another". How are we doing with that?

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

### **God's Plan of Evangelism....**

**Each one bring one!**