

Let's Visit

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



Volume 7

Number 25

October 11, 2020

Prescription for Spiritual Health

In III John 2, John expresses his concern for the physical well being of Gaius. He writes, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Implicit in the statement is the status of Gaius' spiritual being. That causes us to think of our own spiritual health.

Spiritual vitality and strength are attained only through effort. Physical health requires a proactive approach to wellness. In that same way, we need to also approach our spiritual health.

I am not the doctor nor am I the son of a doctor. I never played a doctor on television. I did not stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night. However, I am acquainted with the PDR that doctors use. Let's take a look at the PDR of the Great Physician. That is the book we call the Bible. It contains a prescription for spiritual health. You see, there are some things required for both physical and spiritual health.

A strong immune system is necessary. This is needed to ward off disease. Without a healthy immune system, relatively small threats can be deadly. From a spiritual standpoint, how strong is our ability to withstand threats? Things like temptation, false teaching and persecution. How strong is our immune system to face the inevitable? We cannot live in a bubble, therefore temptation and spiritual hardships will come our way. We are commanded to be in the world and at the same time we are commanded to not be of the world. So, going out of the world to avoid all contact with temptation is not a possibility. If we have a strong immune system we can take heed lest we fall as written in I Corinthians 10:12 and we will be able to withstand the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Things like regular exercise, periodic rest and a healthy diet all contribute to a strong immune system. Exercise is important because we thrive only when we are active. This is true spiritually as well as physically. Rest is also important because our energies and resources need replenishing. Though there is work to do, we sometimes need rejuvenation to continue to work. If you look at the ministry of Jesus, periods of retreat characterized His ministry. Spiritual rest does not mean doing nothing. It means doing something different that will refresh and restore our energy for work. Yet, we also need to provide proper spiritual nourishment. We do not live by bread alone, but by the word of God. The Lord's words are the words of life. We bask by virtue of the pure milk of the word Peter tells us in I Peter 2:2-3. At the same time however, we need to avoid spiritual junk food. The Bible refers to that which is sound doctrine and that is what we need, we need healthy teaching.

Maintaining spiritual health is really very simple. The prescription for spiritual health involves a healthy diet, periodic rest and regular exercise. All of this together builds a strong immune system. If we follow this prescription our spiritual health and progress will be evident. We will do more than just save our own souls. We will be a blessing to those around us by infecting them with good health.

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

"Baptized Outside – Not Inside"

Our text comes from Acts 8:21, where Peter told Simon the Sorcerer his "heart was not right with God"

FOR THE PANTRY....

Canned Corn



Hartselle Church of Christ Hartselle Alabama

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your couch. You can't have community of faith on your couch. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your couch.

Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give.

We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church.

While we are grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be.

Yes, church on the couch is nice. But it'll never be the same as church face to face.

-Copied

On The Lighter Side.....



"Well, I haven't actually *died* to sin, but I did feel kind of faint once."

Abortion Is Murder!

(NOTE: The following is a description of the reality of abortion when lawmakers pass laws denying medical care to babies born alive in a "botched abortion" or when the decision can be made even at the last minute to "terminate" the life of the baby. Remember, an abortion does not make a woman "unpregnant". It only makes her the mother of a dead baby.)

There were no balloons announcing "It's a boy!" No sounds of laughter, no tears of joy. No little onesies marked zero to three, no warm blankets soft and fluffy. It was a little past five when a little boy was born alive, a botched abortion, an unwanted life. Before the doctor could not what he needed to do, the little guy had pushed his way through.

(continued on page 3)

Miscellaneous

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); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect)

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.

* * * * *

***Look hard for the good points in others.
Remember, they have to do the same for you.***

***To avoid the risk of losing their religion, a lot of
People don't take it to work with them.***

***Ignorance is so hard to conceal because people
Always try to hide it in a public place.***

***Procrastination is the thief of time and so are a lot
of other long words.***

Abortion Is Murder – continued from page 2

About the same time his mother came to, with me still holding the baby, the doctor nudged me from the room. We walked down the hall, far enough from there. With me muzzling his cries so she wouldn't hear. The doctor said, "Put him in here," as he held out a tub. So I placed him inside, still covered in blood.....Then I listened to the doctor tell her it all went as planned. Then I confirmed it with a smile and a pat on her hand. It was after seven when she left to go home, not knowing her baby was alive and alone. With medical attention, the baby would thrive, but protected by new law, we just left him to die. With the lid on the bin, we could still hear his cries as we closed the door and turned out the lights. We went home like we always did. But if I could go back, he wouldn't be dead. And now, memories of him fill me with regret. His little face forever stuck in my head.

I found him the very next day, his body once pink, now a shocking blue-gray. He looked so helpless in that cold plastic bed. His body covered in dried blood, his hair matted to his head. What haunts me the most, was seeing him naked. He was given nothing, not even a blanket. His eyes were wide open, and seemed to stare right through me. It left me feeling cold and terribly empty. The doctor and I both pretended not to see the fear on his face as he struggled to breathe. I am not talking about a woman's choice, I am talking about a little infant who did not have a voice. I am not talking about a woman's right, but a tiny human being, a valuable life. I am talking about an infant, not quite a day old, with big round eyes, his mother's nose, ten little fingers and ten perfect toes, a head full of hair that curled around his ears, and chubby little cheeks wet with tears.

He was never given a name. He was never measured or weighed. He died some time during the night, scared, alone and too weak to fight. This happens more often then they want you to know, and former employees will tell you that it is so. If this does not bother you, and you think it is okay, then keep doing what you have been doing, and look the other way. I hope I have made you see that it is not a woman's body. It is a completely separate being. But, if you think life is more valuable than choice, then stand up and fight! Lift up your voice! Innocent blood has now covered this land, leaving us all with red-stained hands.

-selected and copied



Across The Preacher's Desk

We are all familiar with a number of old sayings. One of these is "The proof of the pudding is in the eating". It is in fact a phrase I have used on many occasions. Usually it was used to try and get a head start on eating something.

There is a passage of scripture in Psalms 34:8 that speaks to this where David says, "O taste and see that the Lord is Good." David, you see, invites us to taste and see that the Lord is Good.

The entire spirit of Christianity is, "The Lord is good." But how do we know this? Not by hearing what someone has said. Not by believing the words of others. We are to know by making trial ourselves.

Notice, David does not say "Taste and see IF the Lord is good." He rather says, "Taste and see THAT the Lord is good" There is no doubt, there is no question mark. It is a settled fact that the Lord is good. The story of the cross is the ultimate example of God's love, in that He sent His only Son to die for me to cleanse me from sin.

When we taste and see that the Lord is good, we can then live with the confidence of Paul, when he said, "and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28)

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**

Where Have Our Morals Gone?

Supplement to "Let's Visit", October 11, 2020

In case you are unaware of some of the things going on in our society, just recently Netflix released a French Film entitled "Cuties". The film is an exploitation of young girls and contains lewdness and has absolutely no serious literary or artistic value. In fact, a grand jury in Tyler County, Texas has returned a criminal indictment against Netflix for releasing this film with the charge of promoting lewd visual material of a child.

This just goes to show how decadent our society has become in recent years. The following article appeared on Facebook and it speaks to this issue quite well. The article is attributed to a gentleman by the name of Randy Hicks.

My wife and I have been talking about cancelling Netflix because of all the issues with one of their recent movies. We are doing our homework to be well informed about our decision, but I ran across this very timely story which seems to put it in a very sobering perspective!

Some years ago when I was a pastor, I walked into my church office after a Sunday morning service to find a little brown bag on my desk containing three chocolate brownies. Some thoughtful and anonymous saint who knew my love for chocolate had placed them there, along with a piece of paper that had a short story written on it. I immediately sat down and began eating the first brownie as I read the following story:

Two teenagers asked their father if they could go to the theater to watch a movie that all their friends had seen. After reading some reviews about the movie on the internet, he denied their request.

"Aw dad, why not?" they complained. "It's rated PG-13, and we're both older than thirteen!" Dad replied: "Because that movie contains nudity and portrays immorality—which is something that God hates—as being normal and acceptable behavior."

"Bud dad, those are just very small parts of the movie! That's what our friends who've seen it have told us. The movie is two hours long and those scenes are just a few minutes of the total film! It's based on a true story, and good triumphs over evil,

and there are other redeeming themes like courage and self-sacrifice. Even the Christian movie review websites say that!"

"My answer is 'no,' and that is my final answer. You are welcome to stay home tonight, invite some of your friends over, and watch one of the good videos we have in our home collection. But you will not go and watch that film. End of discussion." The two teenagers walked dejectedly into the family room and slumped down on the couch. As they sulked, they were surprised to hear the sounds of their father preparing something in the kitchen. They soon recognized the wonderful aroma of brownies baking in the oven, and one of the teenagers said to the other, "Dad must be feeling guilty, and now he's going to try to make it up to us with some fresh brownies. Maybe we can soften him with lots of praise when he brings them out to us and persuade him to let us go to that movie after all."

About that time I began eating the second brownie from the little brown bag and wondered if there was some connection to the brownies I was eating and the brownies in the story. I kept reading...

The teens were not disappointed. Soon their father appeared with a plate of warm brownies which he offered to his kids. They each took one. Then their father said, "Before you eat, I want to tell you something: I love you both so very much." The teenagers smiled at each other with knowing glances, Dad was softening.

"That is why I've made these brownies with the very best ingredients. I've made them from scratch. Most of the ingredients are even organic. The best organic flour. The best free-range eggs. The best organic sugar. Premium vanilla and chocolate." The brownies looked mouth-watering, and the teens began to become a little impatient with their dad's long speech.

"But I want to be perfectly honest with you. There is one ingredient I added that is not usually found in brownies. I got that ingredient from our own back yard. But you needn't worry, because I

(Continued on back)

only added the tiniest bit of that ingredient to your brownies. The amount of the portion is practically insignificant. So go ahead, take a bite and let me know what you think.”

“Dad, would you mind telling us what that mystery ingredient is before we eat?”

“Why? The portion I added was so small. Just a teaspoonful. You won’t even taste it.”

“Come on, dad, just tell us what that ingredient is.”

“Don’t worry! It’s organic, just like the other ingredients.”

“Dad!”

“Well, OK, if you insist. That secret ingredient is organic...dog poop”

I immediately stopped chewing that second brownie and I spit it out into the waste basket by my desk. I continued reading, now fearful of the paragraphs that still remained.

Both teens instantly dropped their brownies back on the plate and began inspecting their fingers with horror.

“DAD! Why did you do that? You’ve tortured us by making us smell those brownies cooking for the last half hour, and now you tell us that you added dog poop! We can’t eat these brownies!”

“Why not? The amount of dog poop is very small compared to the rest of the ingredients. It won’t hurt you. It’s been cooked right along with the other ingredients. You won’t even taste it. It has the same consistency as the brownies. Go ahead and eat!”

“No, Dad...NEVER!”

“And that is the same reason I won’t allow you to go watch that movie. You won’t tolerate a little dog poop in your brownies, so why should you tolerate a little immorality in your movies? We pray that God will not lead us unto temptation, so how can we in good conscience entertain ourselves with something that will imprint a sinful image in our minds that will lead us into temptation long after we first see it?”

I discarded what remained of the second brownie as well as the entire untouched third brownie. What had been irresistible a minute ago had become detestable. And only because of the very slim chance that what I was eating was slightly polluted. (Surely it wasn’t...but I couldn’t convince myself.)

What a good lesson about purity! Why do we tolerate any sin? On the day of the Passover, the Israelites were commanded to remove every bit of

leaven from their homes. Sin is like leaven—a little bit leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6).

Jesus, “our Passover” (1 Corinthians 5:7), and sin, don’t mix. Help us, Lord, to “cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Hate evil, you who love the Lord (Psalms 97:10)

-copied

What Do You Expect From A Sermon?

Yes, what do you expect from a sermon?

1. Your funny bone to be tickled.
2. Your ears to be scratched.
3. Your conscience to be soothed.

OR

1. Your eyes to be opened.
2. Your heart to be stirred.
3. Your conscience to be pricked.

Was Peter’s sermon on Pentecost calculated to sooth the conscience or to prick the conscience (Acts 2:37)? Was the Laodician epistle designed to scratch ears or to open ears (Revelation 3:14-22)? Was Paul’s sermon to Felix intended to tickle his funny bone or to open his heart (Acts 24:25)?

Someone has said that preaching is designed to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. Now, with no intent at all to “brow beat” (how we all do rejoice over the wonderful strides being made in the church today!) we must still face the facts. And, the facts reveal that there are still far too many “at ease in Zion” (Amos 6:1) What about these budget deficits? What about poor Sunday evening and Wednesday evening attendance? What about a lack of deep, meaningful, feeling for the less fortunate? What about our fervor to win that lost friend or neighbor to Christ? What about our failure to visit hospitals? What about our fear to restore the fallen? What about our negligence in strengthening that new-born babe in Christ? Don’t you think that it’s quite apparent that the “cult of the comfortable” still has far too many members? And, if one of the responsibilities of preaching is to “afflict the comfortable”, don’t we stand in need of being afflicted?

-Wendell Winkler