

# Let's Visit

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## Believing In Ourselves

In John chapter 10, Jesus is telling us that he is the Good Shepherd. In the middle of that lesson, he says that He has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly. If we are going to live life abundantly, we must believe in God, but we must also believe in ourselves.

In our world there are so many who are filled with self-doubt. But Jesus wants us to believe in ourselves. Often you find Jesus expressing belief in those he met. One day a sinful woman stood in the presence of Jesus. She had been brought there for condemnation. He spoke words of encouragement to her, not condemnation. He said, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more." You can read the story in John chapter 8. Jesus said, "No matter what your past has been, I still believe in you."

Reading the gospels, we are impressed by Jesus' belief in people. We come away impressed with his willingness to trust them.. Over and over He lifted people to a new sense of self-respect. He raised them to new heights of believing in themselves. Remember, Jesus told that worried Father that all things are possible to him that believes. That truth applies to any person in any situation. William James is recognized as the father of American psychology. He put it this way: *"In any project the one important factor is your belief. Without belief there can be no successful outcome. That is fundamental."*

We must visualize ourselves as succeeding. Do you believe in yourself? If not, then you have a serious handicap to overcome. However, you can learn to believe in yourself. Create a mental picture of yourself as succeeding. There is an old story of an outcast beggar. He was sitting across the street from an artist's studio. The artist saw him and quickly began to paint his portrait. When he finished, he called the beggar over to look at it. The

beggar at first did not recognize himself. He kept asking who it was and the artist just smiled. He kept looking at the portrait. At last, recognition began to dawn. He asked, "Is that me, can it be me?" The artist replied, that is the man I see in you." Then the beggar made a wonderful reply, "if that is the man you see, that is the man I will be."

Sooner or later, we become the person we see ourselves to be. If you develop faith in yourself, eventually your faith will recreate you. If your mind is obsessed by thoughts of insecurity and inadequacy, it is because you have allowed these thoughts to dominate your thinking over a period of time.

You must be willing to be yourself. One of the quickest ways to depreciate yourself is to become awestruck by other people and try to copy them. We can be ourselves better than we can be anybody else. When we try and be somebody else, we end up frustrated and defeated. Within each of us is a finer person waiting to be set free. You and I do not need to be someone else. We just need to be all that God made us to be.

We must have a right relationship with God. This is the most important part of living the abundant life and believing in ourselves. An English scientist once said that everywhere in England, deep within the soil were the seeds of tropical plants. He said they had laid there dormant for years. They were waiting for just one thing, the proper climate.

**(Continued On Page 2)**

### 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

### "Seeking The Lost"

Our text comes from Luke 19:10 where Jesus said, "the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"

## *A Settin' Hen. . .*

A settin' hen is miserable. She goes around with her feathers ruffled. Her disposition is reflected by her grumpy "cluck-cluck". She doesn't want to be bothered. She just sets all day long. If you bother her she just pecks you. This makes a "settin' hen" miserable. The cause of her misery is simple. It can be explained in two words – no production. You see, a "settin' hen" never lays.

Unproductive Christians are also miserable. To them, service is a duty, and going to worship is drudgery. Their unhappiness is reflected in their complaining. Their misery is shown in their excuses. Too often they don't know that the cause of their misery is their own lack of productivity. They are doing so little that they have lost their enthusiasm for the work.

Have you found Christian service a burden? Don't lay the blame on others, but take a look at yourself. The joy of service is only for those who are serving. The joy of Bible Study and Worship is for those who attend and help in those activities.

*-Merle Bryant (1972)*

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



I'VE HAD A FULL LIFE ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO GIVE ME ANOTHER GO-AROUND

**Each One Bring One!**  
**52 in '22**  
**Invite Someone Each Week!**

## **For The Pantry. . . Crackers**

### **Believing In Ourselves - continued from page 1**

If the climate of England were changed into a tropical climate, those seeds would spring up into lush foliage. When certain Egyptian tombs were opened, wheat was discovered in them.. These were ancient tombs. For thousands of years, the wheat had remained in the dry darkness of these tombs. When it was brought out and planted, it grew. All it needed was to be put into proper relationship with the earth, the air and the sun.

When we come into a right relationship with God, then we flourish, blossom and grow. Remember what Paul said in Philippians 4:13? He wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". Repeat those words over and over. Let those words become fixed in your mind. Let them be so fixed that doubts and fears are driven out.

There is another passage from Paul to remember. This is in Romans 8:31. He wrote there, "If God be for us, who can be against us". Nothing can defeat us when God is within us. Believe in God. Believe in yourself. Then, life can be abundant.

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - Sunday,

December 4<sup>th</sup> will be our next covered dish luncheon. We will then celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February. Circle the date on your calendar and make your plans to be here!

**BIBLE STUDY** – It is still our desire to have as many “Bodies in Benches” as possible for our Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:45 and our mid-week Bible Study on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you can be here ***PLEASE*** make your plans to do so.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL** – Remember we are planning to have a meal before our services the last Wednesday of each month so make your plans now to join us on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you want to come for Wednesday night Bible Class before that however, you are welcome to do so!

**SUNNY GLEN TRUCK** – The truck from Sunny Glen Children’s Home will be here the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. They have requested Pancake Mix, Cup Noodles, Crackers and Orange Juice. These will be our pantry items for the next several weeks and will be listed on the back of the calendar.

**NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** – It has been 12 years since we last published a pictorial directory and obviously much has changed since then. We plan to take pictures and publish a new directory after the first of January. However, this will be a bit different. This directory will be accessible with an app on your phone. You will be able to print it but for most people the easiest way to access it will be on your “smart phone”. There are also other features that will be helpful in this app. Please, when we get ready to start with picture taking, be sure to sign up and let’s try and have everyone’s picture in this directory. There are other good things coming next year also.

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,  
Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Tiffanee Klein,  
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

### **“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS**

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston’s brother) Ana Blair  
(friend of Debra Pate) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick)  
Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick’s sister) Lamar McCormick  
(friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith  
(Debra Pate’s uncle) heart and blood pressure issues;  
Tina Vaughn - cancer

### **“INTERNET FRIENDS”**

*(These are people who have become acquainted with the  
Center Church of Christ either through Facebook or our  
Website and have requested to be put on our prayer list)*

Mason McConnell, Frankie & Mandy McConnell,  
Wayne Minter, Courtney Workman

### **THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE**

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

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

## How Old Are You?

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm, wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair – these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust. Whether seventy or seventeen, there is in every being’s heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars and the star-like things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing, child like appetite for what next in the game of life. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubts, as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fears, as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

*-copied*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

A businessman was sitting at his desk. All around him were bills, letters and other evidence that he was totally absorbed in the details of his business. The minister of the church entered, anxious to discuss the man's soul. The business man said, "Oh, you must excuse me, brother, I am too busy to take time for that today."

Politely, the minister asked, "When shall I call on you again?" The business man replied, "I don't know, and really can't tell you. I am just too busy right now. I have a lot to take care of." With a sad and heavy heart, the minister excused himself and the businessman returned to his paperwork.

A few days later, a disagreeable stranger stepped into the businessman's office and laid a cold hand on his shoulder. "Come, you must go home with me" the visitor demanded. The businessman laid down his pen, closed his desk and left. He had no choice. A cold chill settled on him as images of so many things left unfinished flashed before his eyes. The name of his visitor was death.

We may think we are too busy. We may think we don't have time to obey the Lord and live His kind of life. However, we will someday not be too busy to die.

Let's make sure we find time to serve the Lord.

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
52 in '22!  
53 in '23!**