

Let's Visit

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



Volume 9

Number 43

October 30, 2022

The Power of Believing

Claude M. Bristol, born in 1891 was a soldier during World War I. He served in both France and Germany during the war. Until 1919 he worked on the staff of *"Stars and Stripes"*. His best known book was published in 1948. It was titled *"The Magic of Believing"*. *The Magic of Believing*, was written for ex-service men and women. Those who would have to adjust to civilian life and prosper in it.

As a newspaper reporter, he studied the religions of the world. He watched them operate. In hospitals he saw people die while others recovered. Often those who recovered were actually sicker. He saw football teams win. Others with more talent would lose. He studied the lives of great men and women. His conclusion is that there is genuine magic in believing.

Long before Claude Bristol wrote his book, Jesus said the same thing. Jesus said, *"All things are possible to him that believeth"*. Jesus came that we might live the abundant life. He said "all things are possible to him that believes". It is amazing what belief can accomplish. Do you remember reading in John 1 when Andrew found Simon? Andrew had met Jesus and brought his brother Simon to Jesus. Can you by an eye of faith see Jesus as he sizes him up? He no doubt saw in Simon certain weaknesses. At the same time He also saw possibilities. So Jesus said, *"Thou are Simon, thou shalt be called Cephas."* Cephas meant that he would be a stone, a rock. Jesus was telling Simon he was one thing right now. But Jesus saw in Simon possibilities. Jesus said, "Simon, I believe in you." We see Jesus faith in Peter severely tried. Yet, Jesus kept on believing in him.

Eventually Peter became the man Jesus believed he could be. All of us need someone to believe in us. We also need to learn to believe in others. More

importantly, we need to realize the belief Jesus has in us. We also need to realize what that means.

Belief makes demands. We never see Jesus one time speak harshly to a sinner. Instead, Jesus saw in the fallen new possibilities. He invited them into a new way of life. Yet, for us, sometimes it is hard to accept His belief in us. You see, His belief in us is a very demanding thing. We read in the gospels of a man coming to Jesus. He came asking what he must do to inherit eternal life. We are told that this man was young and he was wealthy. We are also told that he came running to Jesus. I can see him, breathlessly asking that question of Jesus. The story tells us that Jesus looking on him, loved him. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The young man told Jesus he had kept these from his youth, Jesus then told him what he had to do to be complete. He had to sell what he had, give the money to the poor and then he was to follow Jesus. Jesus told him that he must rid his life of that one thing that was more important to him than Jesus was. We are told that he went away sorrowful. You can read the story in Mark chapter 10.

We can often feel His eyes on us. We can in a moment of faith feel his gaze the way Peter saw His face after the denial and went out weeping. We realize the possibilities Jesus sees in us. He believes we can be something better than we are. But sometimes we don't want to pay the price. He

(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

The Ministry of Jesus

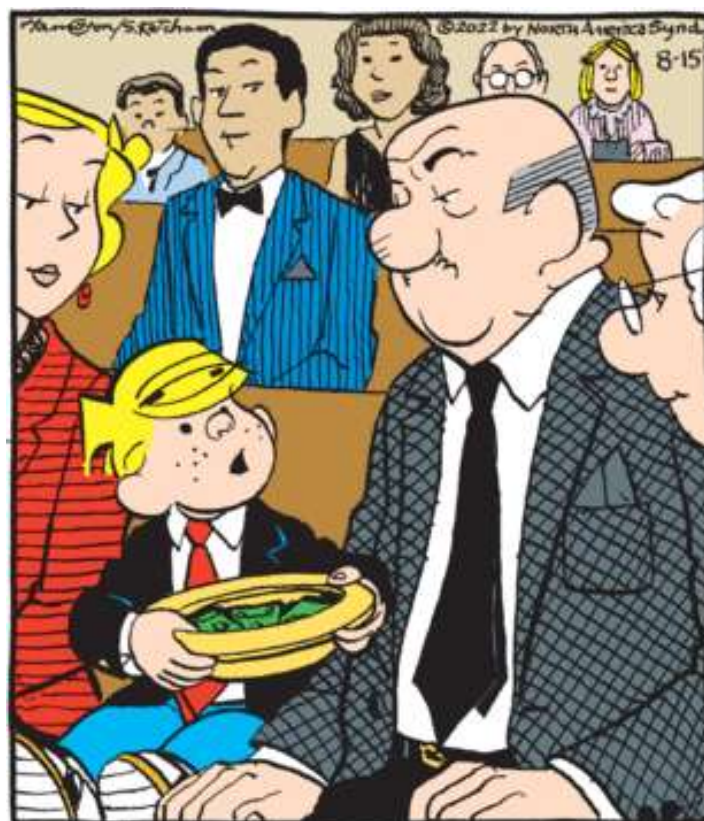
Our text comes from Mark chapter 1 and covers the "Threefold Ministry of Jesus"

think that if we could just solve some particular problem, life would be grand. We think if we could just make a few changes in the outward circumstances of our lives we would be happy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The place to change is inside ourselves. As we yield our life to Jesus, gradually Jesus takes possession of our lives, of us. Paul said, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,"* (Philippians 2:5) He takes over our minds and we think as Jesus thought. We eliminate the word impossible from our vocabulary. We begin to believe and to act on our belief. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible."

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"DON'T BE STINGY, MR. WILSON
...THAT'S GOD'S TIP JAR!"

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

For The Pantry. . . Pancake Mix

The Power of Believing - continued from page 1

demands, we disobey. We fail to live up to His ideals for us. Often we are ashamed of the things we have done. Yet, at the same time we are unwilling to change.

Throughout the years, Jesus has been reaching out to people. He reaches out to men and women expressing His belief in them, his faith in what they can become. Jesus' belief in people has been the magic that has changed more lives than anything else this world has ever known. Simon failed Jesus again and again and Jesus never gave up. After the resurrection he still kept believing in Peter. One morning they had breakfast by the sea in John 21. Jesus asked Simon if he love him more than the others. Then Jesus told Simon to feed the lambs. Jesus did not speak a word about Peter's past failures. Rather, he gave him a purpose, something to live for.

Jesus in that way comes into our lives. Lives that are crippled and handicapped in so many ways. Jesus gives a purpose and meaning to our life. He becomes a force that makes the weak strong, the failing triumphant and bad people become good people. One of the greatest mistakes we make is to

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Sunday, December 4th 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 - Our next Wednesday night meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to our evening services will be on November 30th. Please, make your plans to come and join us.

SUNNY GLEN TRUCK - The truck from Sunny Glen Children's Home will be here the week of November 15th - 17th. 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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Louise Johnson, 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) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law) Roy Garcia (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother) 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.

"A frightened world needs a fearless church."
- A.W. Tozer



Many a man has made a failure in life by determining to have his own way.



Across The Preacher's Desk

In case you don't feel like there is enough pressure in your life, I want to remind you it is just slightly over 8 weeks until Christmas. Many of you have already started your Christmas shopping. Some of you will wait until December 20th or 21st to get started. Thinking about that, we often hear people talk about "choosing a church" or "looking for a church home" like they were doing their Christmas Shopping. I have heard folks say, "I am shopping around for a church and when I find the one I want, I'll join it."

Well, that statement prompts a question. Where are we shopping? By this statement, people mean they are going from one church to another. They attend services one place this Sunday, somewhere else next Sunday, and some place different the next Sunday,. They base their decision on such criteria as friendliness, social activities, environment and "the meeting of felt needs". They keep shopping until they have found these before settling down.

Yet, suppose we find everything in a church that we want, is that proof that it is what God wants? If we find what is pleasing to God, we must do our shopping in the word of God. There we will find all God wanted to say about the church. He will tell us about its beginning, its worship and its work. When it comes to choosing a church, let us make certain our criteria comes from the scriptures and not from men.

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

The Lord's Plan For Evangelism –

Each one Bring one!

52 in '22!

53 in '23!