

Let's Visit

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A Letter to The Congregation of Israel

(With our present series on "The Misunderstood Church", we felt this might be a timely article. It is a fictitious letter that might have been sent out by Nadab and Abihu had they done things the way they are done in our day and time.)

Dear Brethren,

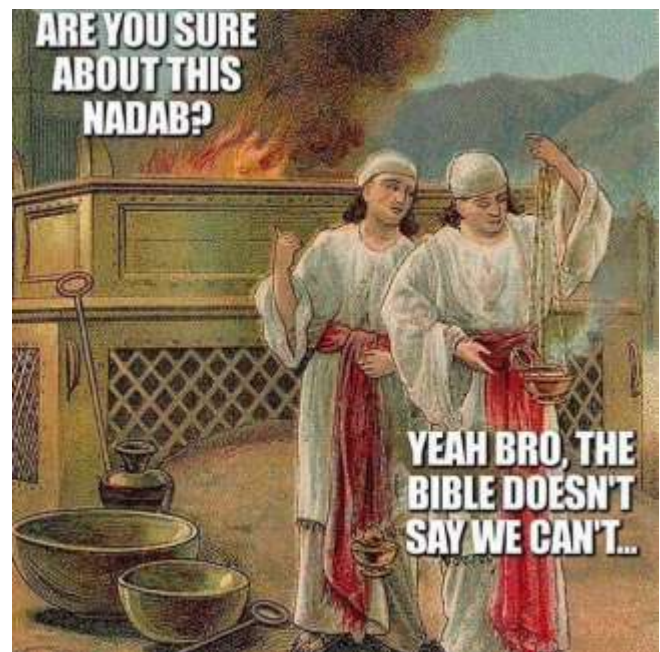
It is with utmost humility that we inform you of a change of worship practices in your normal sacrificing. Be assured that we are bringing about this change only after much prayer and study. We have recently concluded an in-depth study of the Law as delivered by our brother Moses that covered 400 days. (We might note that is ten times the length of time it took the Lord to impart this law)

We have decided to bring about a change in the type of fire used in worship. We are aware that there is a standing tradition of using only one-source of fire, but we (as holy priests) do not feel obligated to blindly follow tradition. Numerous polls of our worshipping clientele indicate the overwhelming opinion that they do not care where we get the fire used for their sacrifices, just as long as the service is conducted in a respectful and meaningful way.

We are in agreement with this growing majority, as we cannot see how a change in fire will affect anything in the least about our sacrifices. The animal is still properly cooked, the incense burned. We are of the mind that were we to secretly substitute a different fire it would be impossible for any of the worshippers to know a change had taken place.

Besides all this, we became aware of the fact that nowhere in the Law does the Lord forbid the use of what some of our detractors have referred to as "strange fire". We feel that the lack of such a restriction was meant to give us freedom. For those

who disagree, we would ask you to show us anyplace in the law that tells we cannot do something the Lord has not seen fit to condemn.



We also wish to point out that the congregation of Israel is the only religious group in the known world that willingly limits itself to only one kind of fire. We have become the laughingstock of the land of Canaan and have been ridiculed openly by many groups. This "only one fire" self-righteous policy

(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 Misunderstood Church" – The Pattern for Salvation and Church Membership

We have been talking about "Restoration" and "Patterns". The new Testament contains a pattern for salvation and church membership and we will be looking at that this morning.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Manwich Sauce

Open Letter To Israel - continued from page 1

has alienated us from everyone else. We believe this change will open new fellowship opportunities.

Now to set the minds of some of you at ease, we will continue to offer a traditional service using the old fashioned fire as well as this progressive service with the new fire. As a matter of fact, we may occasionally use the old fire in our progressive service for special feast days. In this way we hope that our older citizens are still comfortable even though they dogmatically insist on a worship style which is declining and we believe to be stunting our growth.

Consider the freedom this new practice affords us! We will no longer have the expense of maintaining a constant fire in one location. This will also make it possible to appeal to a younger audience as we discover more entertaining ways to "light the fire" of our assemblies. (We hope you caught the little play on words there!)

For those who still oppose the use of new fire, we ask you not to be judgmental of new ideas. We also hope you will not use this change as an excuse to divide our people or stir up trouble within the congregation. We remind you that this has been well thought out and the majority of elders have signed on with us. It is true we have not included our father, Aaron, in this deliberation; but we were

well aware of this tradition-bound views and still plan to leave him in charge of doing the traditional service anyway. We also have not consulted Moses, but his humility is well known and we are confident he will want to uphold the majority decision in this effort to improve our worship.

We are very much looking forward to our first new fire service. We hope you will make a special effort to be present to witness a new age of enlightenment in the church of Israele. We know God will be watching and we anticipate that His joy over seeing His people take a great step toward throwing off the burden of binding tradition will be an electrifying experience.

See you there. Bring some extra barbecue sauce, for we think this new practice is going to spread like wildfire!

Nadab & Abihu, D. D. L. & P.
(Doctors of Divine Law and Progress)

P. S. After the successful changeover in this part of our worship, future plans include the ordination of women priests, inter-idol fellowship activities with the various pagan groups nearby, and a special service called "it doesn't have to be Passover to celebrate Passover anymore")

(NOTE: I wish I had the creative ability to come with such satire as this article, however, we all have our limitations. You can read the story of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10)

On The Lighter Side....



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU
TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?

Miscellaneous

Mark Your Calendar!



**Sunday
December 5th
Our Next Covered
Dish Luncheon**

**Make Your Plans
To Be Here!**

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THE ANGELINA CHURCH OF CHRIST in Lufkin will be hosting a series of lessons October 10th through 13th, entitled "ONWARD AS GOD'S SERVANT'S". Patrick Hammack of Georgetown, Texas will be the speaker.



HOW TO KILL A CHURCH

- Don't Evangelize
- Regularly Criticize Leaders
- Attend Services Infrequently
- Refuse to Volunteer
- Neglect the Youth
- Complain More Than Encourage
- Stop Taking the Bible Seriously
- Value Personal Preferences Over Souls

Here's a thought....

A dear old lady, distinguished for her youthful appearance, was asked what she used to preserve her youthful charms. She replied, "I use for the lips, truth; for the voice, prayer; for the eyes, purity; for the hands, charity; for the figure, uprightness; for the heart love." Try it sometime and see if it doesn't have a bearing on your appearance.

-selected



Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) who lost his life in an automobile accident this past Wednesday evening.

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; **Katilyn 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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Candle-Dipping

A candle's but a simple thing,
It starts with just a bit of string.
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand
Until, complete and snowy white,
It gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string;
Each deed we do a simple thing,
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient heart and hand
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright
And gives at last a lovely light.

-Clara B. Thurston



Across The Preacher's Desk

James would write these very poignant words in James 4:14, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away" The most dangerous word in human speech is "tomorrow". In fact, if you want to really make God laugh, tell Him what you are going to do tomorrow.

Often, we jokingly say, "never do today what you can put off until tomorrow". While, with many things in this life, that is an attitude that we can get by with, in our dealings with God and the eternal destiny of our soul, it can be tragic.

Governor Felix heard Paul preach in Acts chapter 24. Paul reasoned with Felix of righteousness when he was unrighteous, with temperance when Felix was intemperate and of judgment to come when Felix sat in judgment of others. When the sermon came to a close, it had such an impact on Felix that we are told that Felix trembled. However, he sent Paul away and said he would call for him in a more convenient season. He wanted to put off serving God until tomorrow. Tomorrow never came for Felix.

There are numerous examples in the scriptures of those who waited until "tomorrow" and it was a tragedy for them. The foolish virgins in Matthew 25, the rich farmer of Luke 12 and those in the parable of the Great Supper recorded in Luke chapter 14.

The great word in the Bible is today. Today is when we must be serving God. Are we?

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

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

Each one bring one!