



# LET'S VISIT

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## MUSINGS ABOUT HEAVEN

While exiled on Patmos, John was given a glimpse of the Holy City. He saw Heaven, the New Jerusalem. He attempted to describe it in terms we might understand. To my mind, Revelation 22:5 is a beautiful passage of scripture. Describing Heaven, John says, *"there shall be no night there"*.

When you think about it, we know so little about the life to come. Why is it that Jesus, who knew all about heaven said, after all, so little about it? I suppose the full answer must wait until we arrive there. It is then that the night of our ignorance will be over.

Yet, I am convinced we have received as much revelation and knowledge about the life to come as in our present state we are able to receive. I do find it interesting that some of the significant things we are told about heaven are the negative things. The "what is not" there.

If you were going to describe to an untaught resident of the Arctic region some rich tropical country, you could hardly give him a conception of it by mentioning the things that are there. What would a palm tree mean to a man who had never seen anything but snow and ice? What would the flash of brilliantly plumaged birds mean to one who had never seen any bird but a gull or a penguin? What would an elephant or lion mean to an individual who had seen only the floundering seal?

You would have to begin the other way. You would have to first tell this person what is not there. You would say there is no snow, no ice, no polar bears. In a way, that is the method by which we are told what lies beyond the grave.

The scriptures tell us first of all what is not in heaven. The things we are accustomed to here that won't be there. Things we shall never see and never

experience there. Yet, to me, of all these negative descriptions the one most beautiful and satisfying is *"there shall be no night there"*. That is the one which sums up and includes all the other negative descriptions. Heaven is that place where there shall be no night. To the weary earth, night comes down with the benediction of peace, silence and rest. But when John tells us there shall be no night in heaven, night means a whole different thing.

It means night as a symbol of unrest, ignorance, distress and darkness. Do you remember Paul's experience on the ship in Acts 22? The sailors cast those four anchors out of the stern of the vessel. They were trying to hold the ship off the rocks of Malts. Luke pictures for us the officers, passengers and prisoners huddling together on the deck of the ship. He tells us that as that vessel pitched in the waves, they wished for the day. After all, does that not sum up the history of mankind? The history of man is nothing more than a deep, pathetic longing and wishing for the day. Wishing for that time when the dark shadows shall disappear and the light shall come. In heaven, we shall behold the light which shall not go out!

There shall be no night there, for there shall be no sorrow. We are told that *"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"*. Sorrow and pain lie very close together and there will be no pain in heaven.

**(Continued on page 2)**

### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 -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



## *Myths, Misconceptions & Misinformation* (Lesson 2 in a Series)

**For The Pantry. . .**  
**September 14 – Oatmeal**

**Offering – September 7, 2025 . . \$ 6,505.00**

**The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"**

**Musings about Heaven – continued from page 1**

Sometimes, sorrow is the result of pain. Yet, there is a deeper pain than the pain of the body. There is that pain of the spirit and pain of the heart. The human heart is wonderful and has a great capacity for sorrow. Have you ever thought what it would mean if Jesus had been known only as a man of joy? Had that been the case, then he could never have been our savior. He had to be touched by the feeling of our infirmities. When Jesus was found in fashion as a man, he became the man of sorrows. Sorrow is one of the deepest facts of human life.

When we see Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus, then we are willing to listen to Him. The most tender moments of Jesus on earth were when he wiped away the tears of those who wept. Through the whole of creation rolls the deep mournful song of human sorrow. In that sad song I hear the cry of a little child. I also hear the cry of the strong man in his middle age. I can then too hear the cry of the aged.

Who among us has at some point not wished that he or she had the power to wipe away tears? When you see a child that is lost. When a mother is weeping over a child she has lost. When we see a man weeping like Peter over his sins and transgressions.

Sadly, that can never be in this world, a world man has rightly called the vale of tears. But on the

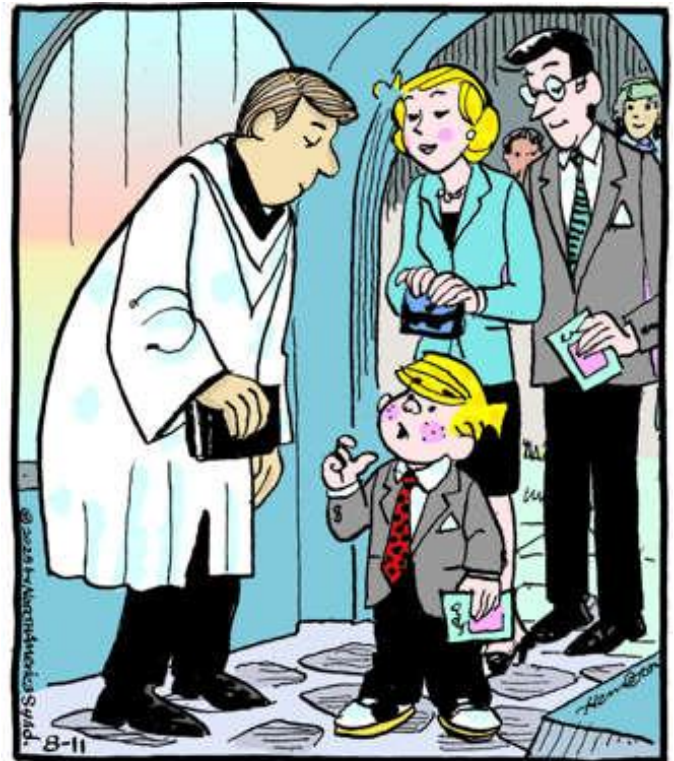
other side, it will be so. What could be more beautiful and more tender than the word spoken concerning heaven. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes?

Right here, right now, that heavenly light must shine out from our lives. Our faith has to be the kind of living faith that others will see and admire. It must be a faith that will lead others to Jesus.

I sometimes wonder what those on the other side would say if they could bring us a message. We know the rich man of Luke 16 has a message for those he has left behind. I am certain those on the other side would have wonderful things to tell us. To those in sorrow, they would say to not mourn as those who have no hope. To those in doubt, they would bring the message of the life to come. To those tempted they would say, endure every loss. To those who have sinned and gone astray, they would bring the message of repentance. To those without Christ, they would say, surrender to Him before it is too late.

*tp*

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



**"I'M NOT LED INTO TEMPTATION.  
I GO THERE ALL BY MYSELF."**



## Friends & Family Day!

This past Sunday we had our annual “Friends and Family Day” and what a wonderful day it was. We had 93 present for our worship period which is the largest audience we have had in almost 20 years. In fact, you have to go back to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Homecoming on May 4, 2008 when we had 138 present for worship to find a larger attendance for a Sunday morning worship period. Every member of this congregation is to be commended for their efforts not only in being present but for the invitations they extended to make this a great day.

Our fellowship meal was fantastic, there was an abundance of food and everyone enjoyed a great time of fellowship.

I have said this before, I will say it again, and I will continue to say it, “The greatest days of the Center Church of Christ are still out there in the future”. With the kind of hard work and effort we had for this day, things will only get better in the future.

Again, thank you, each and every one for your prayers, effort and commitment to make last Sunday a great day.

tp

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**Communion Preparation - September**  
Mike & Jana O'Brien



We hope you are making your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night Fellowship meal, September 24, 2025.



**Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) is having thyroid surgery September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Martha Bradshaw** got a good report from her stress test this past Tuesday – no blockages.

**Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in-law) had a procedure on her knee this past Tuesday.

**Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) is recovering from thyroid Surgery this past Wednesday.

**Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) is in ICU in Round Rock is serious condition.

**Jerry Pate** is scheduled for cataract surgery September 21<sup>st</sup>

**Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) is recovering from surgery this past week.

**Gene Bradshaw** is still undergoing tests to determine the cause of his shortness of breath.

### OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

**Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis**

### “EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

**Tami Abernathy** (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Ted Holt** (former member of this congregation) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; **J. C. Tate & Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

**Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate**



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Have you ever seen items on sale at a greatly reduced price and in the fine print you read "minor imperfections"? Have you ever thought about how that describes us? The church is composed of folks that have imperfections. There are members, preachers, bible class teachers, song-leaders and others with "minor imperfections". Amazingly, over the years God has been able to work wonders through imperfect people. In fact, God has never had a chance with any other kind.

If a preacher ever finds a congregation with no faults, he will have found a place where no teaching, preaching or training is necessary. If a congregation ever finds a perfect preacher, he will seem unreal, completely without understanding of the difficulties and burdens and sorrows people with minor imperfections struggle with.

It is imperfect Christians, working together, forgiving one another's faults, who come nearest to presenting Christ the "perfect" church.

If you know of someone who stays away from the church, away from the worship because there are people there with imperfections, invite them in. There is always room for one more imperfect person. Also, just how perfect does it make you when you refuse to forgive the imperfections of another? How perfect does it make you, when you try to destroy the usefulness of another in the kingdom of Christ because they might have "minor imperfections"?

I don't guess we should take a personal inventory. We might find that we have "minor imperfections"

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