



LET'S VISIT

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FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLING

The worship of God is both a privilege and a necessity. Men and women must worship God, not for God's sake, but for their own sake. If we dethrone God in our hearts, we enthrone something or someone in the place of God.

The writer of Hebrews has this to say, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."* (Hebrews 10:25) As the writer is trying to point the Hebrew Christians to the great High Priest, he admonishes them not to forsake their own assembly. This admonition is followed with a warning concerning willful sin and the folly of rejecting this one who speaks from heaven.

Fervently he exhorts them to meet on that certain day and he especially warns them against forsaking the assembling as some were actually doing. He further instructs them to exhort one another to attend, for he realizes that such mutual admonition and cooperation would help insure their obedience to this admonition. It would also tend to create interest in the spiritual welfare of others and this interest in one another is a vital part of Christianity.

When it is absolutely impossible to attend the services, it cannot be said that one has forsaken the assembling. However, with most of us, no such impossibility exists. We usually do what we want to do and what we are interested in. Most of our non-churchgoing excuses boil down to this one excuse: People do not go because they do not want to go.

The excuses being used today are myriad, but they do not remove the exhortation and warning from the passage in Hebrews 10. Here are a few excuses which some find convenient but which will ultimately be found to be very destructive. "I do not feel good." – Talk about overused. Perhaps your

Saturday was filled with too much activity. "I had company" – let them go with you or let them stay at home. If you would not think for one moment of letting the devil keep you from services, why let your friends keep you from the services? (Or, why let the devil do it through your friends and relatives!) "The weather was too bad" – well that's a problem; but whether or not this is a valid reason will depend upon circumstances which you and you alone can properly evaluate. Would this same weather have kept you from a ball game, or fishing, or hunting, or shopping or...? "I do not like the preacher" – he is not the object of your worship, so why let that worry you? He must be a pretty awful fellow to be able to keep God's children from gathering around the Lord's table on the Lord's day.

Would these and similar excuses keep us from work or Wal-Mart? Would they keep us from doing anything that we really wanted to do? When we truly examine our excuses, we will find they are not reasons. They are merely attempts to rationalize irrational conduct.

We will attend the services when we recognize their importance and they result in good for us. They will indeed benefit us if we "put ourselves into the worship" by really worshipping God. If the resurrection of Christ and our hope were not so far from the mind of most of us, the assembly would have an entirely different meaning and appeal.

tp

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



The Death of Jesus

For The Pantry. . .
September 17 – Canned Vegetables

Have You Ever Wondered. . .

How many souls could be led to Christ if you were as faithful as you ought to be?

How many people would be influenced by the church, if you were as loyal as you ought to be?

What kind of reputation the church would have in the community if you always said good and positive things about the church and your fellow Christians?

What would the church be able to accomplish if you were totally committed and involved in the work of the church?

How much do we really love the Lord and the Church? How much do we really love our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Have you ever wondered about love? What it really is?

Love is. . .

Silence when your words would hurt.

Patience when your neighbor is curt.

Deafness when the scandal flows.

Thoughtfulness for another's woes.

Promptness when stern duty calls.

Courage when misfortune falls.

What about your love. Your love for the Lord, your love for the church and your love for your fellowman?

tp

53 in '23
Invite Someone Each Week!

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's supper as pictured in the New Testament was a very simple, but a very impressive and meaningful rite. No priestly intervention, no, not so much as a preacher was required. Baptized believers assembled "upon the first day of the week to break bread," to sing and pray and "exhort one another." This "communion" was observed for several purposes or reasons.

1. For spiritual nourishment. "Take eat." "Drink ye all of it."

2. For a monument. "This do in remembrance of me".

3. For a testimonial. "Ye do proclaim the Lord's death."

4. Announcing his coming. "Till the Lord come."

5. Christian fellowship. "By being many are one bread and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread."

The Lord's table now points, always has and always will, three ways. It points to the past – do in remembrance, to the future –till he comes and inward – let each examine himself.

-selected

On The Lighter Side. . .



"Would you mind preaching on something other than sin for a while? There are a few things I need to do next week..."



DECEMBER 3, 2023

NO EXCUSE SUNDAY!

**Make your plans NOW to
be here – NO EXCUSES!**

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Hospitality Group 2 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: Roxie Bostick, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and Norma Perkins.

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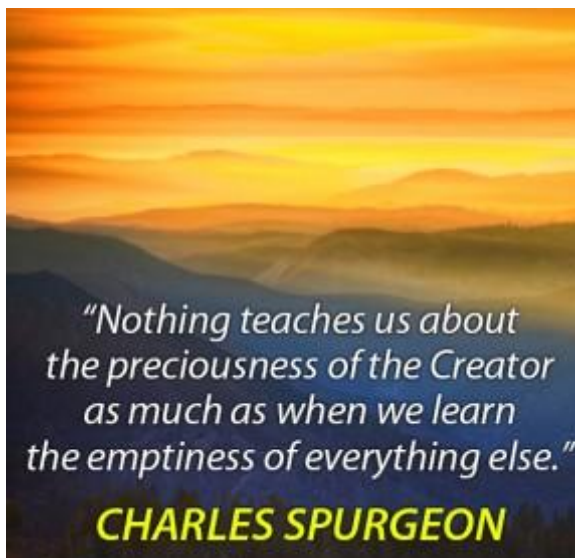
LADIES DAY – Vidor Church of Christ, Vidor, Texas. Saturday, September 23rd, 9:00 a.m. Royce Ann Wiggins will be the speaker for this event. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with further information.



September 27, 2023

6:00 p.m.

**Please make your plans to
come and join us.**



*"Nothing teaches us about
the preciousness of the Creator
as much as when we learn
the emptiness of everything else."*

CHARLES SPURGEON



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Mike O'Brien, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Minion Bean-(Mike O'Brien's mother) Aleshia Bradshaw (Gene & Martha Bradshaw's granddaughter in law) Brenda Bradshaw (Gene Bradshaw's sister in law) recovering from knee surgery; Curtis Bradshaw (Gene Bradshaw's brother) recovering from pneumonia; Ron Cone (Laura Miller's dad), Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Gail Foster (Cancer) Bobbie Gray (Jerry Pate's Aunt) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Glynn Hartt (friend of Cissy Amos) Suzanne Ihlo (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Reba Miley (friend of Debra Pate) Vervan Pate (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. Al Reick (Robbie Holt's brother-in-law) pancreatic cancer. Stephanie Richard (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Michael Smith (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; Buddy Sowell (friend of Debra Pate) Suellen Swank (friend of Norma Perkins) J. C. and Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother and father) Myrtle Turner (Norma Perkins Mother) Wes Wiesemer (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) recovering from a stroke and also suffering with cancer: Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

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

Make your plans to be in Bible Class

9:45 Sunday Morning

7:00 Wednesday Evening



Across The Preacher's Desk

As the story goes, the family had come home from church and little Bobby followed his mother into the kitchen. She took the fried chicken out of the oven she had cooked before church and put it on a platter. She left to go into the other room and when she came back Bobby had a drumstick and thigh on a plate and was headed out the door. When questioned, he pleaded with his mother that he wanted the drumstick and thigh to feed his dog. Mother informed him in a not so gentle manner that the fried chicken was for the family dinner.

After dinner, Bobby collected the bones from the table and took them outside and explained, "Well, Rover, I really wanted to bring you an offering today, but it turned out to be just another collection.

That story has been around a long time. It has been used on numerous occasions to emphasize the importance of proper stewardship of our material possessions. However, that story is just as applicable to stewardship of other things God has entrusted to our care.

How about our time? What kind of offering does God receive of the time he has given us? Do we really love the Lord and love His church when we cannot find the time to serve Him? How much time do we devote to the study of God's word and to prayer? How much time do we devote to telling others about our Savior, Jesus Christ? Did you find time to worship him last Lord's Day?

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

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