

Let's Visit

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Don't Be A Minimalist

We humans are interesting creatures aren't we? On the one hand we mostly want to be seen as being good people. People who are doing the right thing. People who make a positive contribution to the community.

Then, to achieve this goal, we try and so as little as possible. We do it at school. We do it at work. We do it at home. We even do it in our spiritual life. What we are is minimalists. We do just enough to make us look good.

There was a group of people in Jesus' day who were like this. They were Pharisees. To be sure, Jesus did not have a lot of good things to say about them. Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 5:20, it is a part of His famous "Sermon on the mount", *"For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven."* As far as Jesus is concerned, people cannot be minimalists and expect to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. That is the principle He sets forth here.

Now, remember, the Pharisees were great people to talk about the law. They boasted about their outward righteousness. Yet, their hearts were far from God. Their spirits were anything but God like. They considered themselves to be above everyone else. Yet, Jesus said our righteousness must exceed theirs.

In other words, our goodness is to go all the way through us. It must be an inward goodness as well as an outward goodness. What power can we ever have for God if we talk a great religion and then live like the devil? We need to live so others can see Jesus living in us. In the rest of Matthew chapter 5,

Jesus talks about the Christian's laws and the Christian's love.

Jesus tells us that in regard to anger that we are to go beyond the Law of Moses where it says "Thou shalt not kill". Jesus says there is sin in anger. You see, Hatred is the heaviest burden we can bear and we are not to overload our hearts by carrying hatred in them. If someone wants to hate us, that is their privilege. However, let's not hate others because hatred is self-destructive.

In regard to the law of giving, Jesus tells us we are to agree with our adversary quickly. We are to make up quickly with them and not nurse a grudge and harbor resentment.

Jesus next deals with the law concerning adultery. Many feel they have not broken this seventh commandment if they have not committed the definite act of adultery. However, Jesus tells us we can break this commandment in our hearts.

As Jesus continues, we see the Law of Christ is to be written on our hearts rather than on tablets of stone as the Law of Moses was.

Jesus also deals with the love that a Christian has. Jesus tells us we are to love our enemies. As Christians, we are to love everyone and in that way folks will know that we belong to Christ. If we want to live life at the highest and best, we must exceed the minimum requirements.

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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

“Will God Bless America ?”

Our text comes from
Proverbs 14:32. Can we
really expect God to bless
America when righteousness
is so far from our lives?

FOR THE PANTRY....

Canned Pasta

The Church and I

The church is a feeding place of the soul. It is a place of fellowship, overcoming the perils of loneliness. It is a place of spiritual reminder, refreshing consecration and quickening love. It is a place where hearts are warmed, where the bond of friendship is made stronger, where the cares of this world are forgotten, where the soul loses itself in the Eternal God. It is a dynamic of new power. In Holy Writ it is said, “They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.” When we wait at Jesus’ feet, in the spirit of humble devotion, human weakness is replaced with divine strength.

Said some devout soul: “The church is the home of my soul, the altar of my devotion, the hearth of my faith, the center of my affection and the foretastes of heaven. It claims the first place in my heart, the highest place in my activities, and its unity, peace and progress concerns my life in this world and that which is to come. I owe it my zeal, my benevolence, and my prayers. When I neglect its services, I injure its good name, I lessen its power, I discourage its members and I chill my own soul”

Jesus died for the church; it becomes our privilege to live for the church. God grant that we

may do this to the fullest measure of our life, unhindered by the spirit of selfishness or sin in any form. Like all precious plants, the church does not grow and thrive of its own accord. It is to be cared for and cultivated. My dear brother and sister in the Lord, may we not neglect the meetings of the church,. When we neglect the church, we neglect ourselves and endanger the salvation of the soul.

-Frank L. Cox

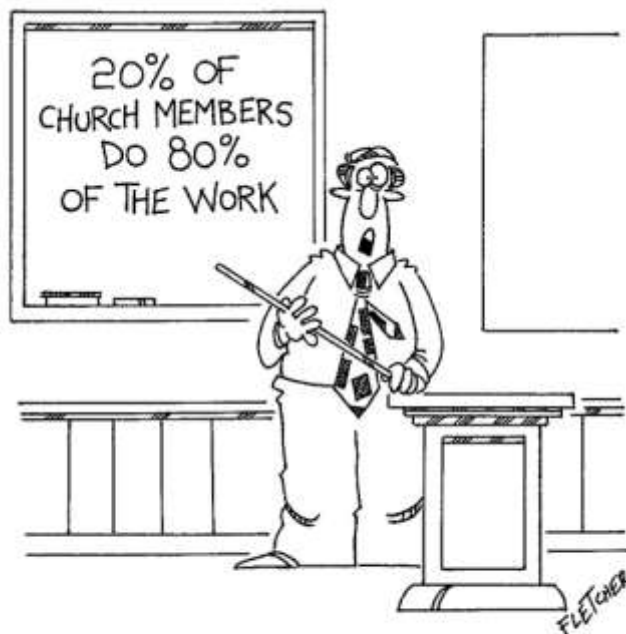
LOVE!

Love empties us of self and fills us with the fullness of God. Love always finds a way to serve. Our environment may be ever so unpleasant, but if we let love pour its enchantment into the unpleasant elements, joy and peace will enrich our lives.

Love smoothes the way for others. It makes the rugged path seem lighter. It is the disarmer of criticism; it is the author of all that is good.

-borrowed

On The Lighter Side.....



“So the question is: ‘How to get that 20% to press on to greater achievement?’”

Miscellaneous

Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you



Those To Remember In Prayer

Roxie Bostick suffered a compression fracture in several vertebrae in her back. She is in a brace and confined to bed for several weeks.

Wayne Sims is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday in Lufkin.

Cody Butler, Jerry and Debra Pate's grandson had part of his liver removed Friday night. He is still in very critical condition.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw

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Gossip's End

When gossips die, as mortals must,
And leave their earthly home.
Their punishment will be, I trust,
Eternally to roam
Down dismal paths and darkened pits
And empty halls of hell,
With heads crammed full of juicy bits
And not a soul to tell.

-selected

The Old Fashioned Preacher

Old Parson Stubbs he used to preach
At Tobin's schoolhouse and at Beach;
A preacher of the olden brand
With Scripture verses right at hand,
With half the Bible learned by rote
Right in his head where he could quote.
I'm sure the bells of Heaven rang
Both when he prayed and when he sang!

He raised a loud reproving din
Against old-fashioned breed of sin.
He spoke aloud – some say he raved
About the need of “getting saved”.
He held “revivals” now and then
Where women, kids, and grown-up men.
With tear-streams coursing down the face
“Sought pardon, purity and grace.

He thundered forth “the Truth, the Word.”
In tones that were distinctly heard;
He had one “message” meant for all,
‘Twas “seek redemption from the fall.”
The parson died in ninety-three;
His last song as “Abide With Me”;
His last words were, “It is His Way!”
“Good-by. I’m going Home today!”

A man now preaches in his place
Who scoff's the very sound of grace.
He has A.M.'s and Ph.D.'s
And other marks of high degrees.
He lectures on the planet Mars
The glory of the moon and stars
The glory of the moon and stars
The beauty of the mountain range
And other topics vague and strange!

His lectures might be very good
If they were ever understood.
But they don't put a man on pins
And make him sorry for his sins;
They never stir a wicked gent
Up to the point where he'll repent!
I wonder what this man will sing
When slipping off to meet “the King”,
And if, like Parson Stubbs, he'll say,
“Good-by. I'm going Home today.”

-anonymous



Across The Preacher's Desk

Last Sunday was a wonderful day in the life of the Center Church of Christ. It was great, after a six month period to have a covered dish luncheon once again. We took additional precautions but those who stayed had a wonderful time of fellowship. A thank you to all of you who fixed food and brought food, because as always, we had an abundance of good food to eat. A special thank you to Sarah Fletcher, LaResa Livingston, Jana and Mike O'Brien and Norma Perkins for their work in serving plates and drinks.

Also, if you did not notice the beautiful new flower arrangement in front of the pulpit, please take a look at it this week. A shout out to Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and Norma Perkins for providing this beautiful arrangement. I heard someone say that the pulpit area needed all the help it could get in the way of beautification, especially when the preacher was behind the pulpit! It's a good thing I am not sensitive, I could get my feelings hurt.

All in all, this past Sunday was a great day. As we have said on so many occasions, the best, brightest and greatest days of the Lord's Church in Center, Texas are still out there in the future. May God continue to bless our efforts.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**