

Let's Visit

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

Volume 8

Number 34

September 26, 2021



The Golden Calf Worship Experience

There is an interesting story in the checkered history of Israel recorded in Exodus chapter thirty-two. It is the story of the Golden Calf. Israel you see had come out of nearly 400 years of Egyptian bondage by the mighty hand of God. They were headed for a new life and for a new land. Yet, they first had to overcome immaturity and a lack of patience. Moses has been on Mount Sinai nearly 6 weeks, and the Israelites grew impatient and regarded their leader as lost to them. With the loss of their leader, they felt that the Divine Presence which they had enjoyed was lost to them also. They therefore insisted on having a symbol of that presence made for them that would go in front of the host of the people and lead them on in their journeying.

So, they went to Aaron. It was Aaron that Moses had told them to consult if they had any kind of difficulty. They told Aaron they wanted him to make them a god. Aaron, like a lot of elders and preachers today, did not have the courage to meet this request with a plain no. In all probability, he tried to turn them from their purpose by asking them to give up those possessions which he conceived that they valued most, the personal ornaments of their wives and children. But he had miscalculated the strength of their fanaticism. The people immediately complied, the ornaments were brought in, and Aaron was forced then to either flee from his word or lend himself to the wishes of the people. He chose to give the people what they wanted.

But, God was angry. God was so upset that he wanted to destroy the people. Moses interceded for his people and God relented from destroying this great nation. However, as we look at this event in the history of Israel, we are reminded of what the

Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "*Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning*". There are lessons for us in this story.

You see, crowds, the majority, do not make it right. Aaron had a crowd of people assembled. Generally speaking, people think that crowds make something right. Anytime you get a large crowd assembled, the conventional wisdom says, "Well, they must be doing something right". In fact, earlier in the book of Exodus, (Chapter 23:2) the Bible says, "*Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.*"

We also learn that giving people what they want and wonderful worship experiences may not be right. Israel wanted new gods and a new style of worship. Verse 19 of Exodus, chapter 32, tells us they were dancing and verse 25 tells us they were naked, or more correctly "unrestrained". This was a "no-holds barred" worship which was the result of Aaron giving the people what they wanted. For those Israelites who indulged in that revelry in the name of worship, it was a religious experience that was "better felt than told". There are those in our day and time who complain about worship. They have become tired of the old, outdated style of worship of their fathers. They want to turn the worship of God into something that allows a "worship experience", they want something "more

(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 Goal of Restoration

As we discussed in our introduction to these lessons, we believe in the concept of "Restoration". This is something that has been a hallmark of God's people. We see how this concept impacted David in this lesson.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Peanut Butter

"The Golden Calf Worship... - continued from page 1

contemporary". Beloved, man gets into trouble when he changes the worship of God to suit his needs and his feelings rather than desiring to be pleasing to God. The purpose of worship is not to meet my "felt needs". The purpose of worship is to draw near to God. God is the object of our worship. Therefore the question is not what pleases me. The question is, what pleases God.

tp

"Be Of Good Cheer"

Success comes only to those who exhibit determination. In Mark 10, we have an example of Blind Bartimaeus, a beggar who sat by the wayside just outside the city of Jericho. He could not see the crowd passing, but he made good use of his ears, and when he heard that Jesus was passing, began to cry out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me!"

No one told the blind beggar to call out to Jesus, and when he did call, many opposed his attempts. "And many rebuked him that he should hold his peace." (Mark 10:48) In spite of the discouragements of others, he kept calling and for a while, he was unheeded by the Lord himself. But he kept on in his determination to receive a blessing.

When Jesus stood still, and said, "Call ye him." The friends of Bartimaeus said, "Be of good cheer, rise, he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garments, sprang up and came to Jesus."

Bartimaeus did not expect the blessings to come to him without his participation, but when he heard the voice of Jesus, he was ready and eager to obey.

Sometimes, when we ask the Lord for blessings, we are not ready to do our part to receive such blessings. Repeated prayers and supplications, coupled with hard work to make full use of every talent and ability we have will surely bring us joys, attainment and full Christian happiness.

-Just A Moment

On The Lighter Side....



"YOU MUST BE AN AWESOME SWIMMER! MY DAD SAID YOU WERE VERY LONG-WINDED!"

*The world is full of willing people.
Some are willing to work.
Others are willing to let them.*

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Mark Your Calendar!



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

**Make Your Plans
To Be Here!**

* * * * *

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”. These will be practical lessons from Deuteronomy. Patrick Hammack of Georgetown, Texas will be the speaker.

**The purpose of worship
is not to obtain an
emotional high, to
placate the flesh, or be
entertained. It's not a
theater stage for
dramatics or
performance. The
purpose of worship is
to honor, glorify, and
praise our holy God.
John 4:23-24
Mark 7:6-13**

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 Cody Butler (Debra Pate’s grandson) Gracie Elam (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) John Fincher (Dale Fincher’s uncle) Kamryn and Korbyn Fontenot (Debra Pate’s grandsons) Gayle Foster (Cancer) Emily Heflin (Roxie Bostick’s niece) 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) Julia & Reno Mendza (cousins of Jerry Pate) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Stephanie Richard (friend of Norma Perkins) 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.

* * * * *

Persistence

When you feel that being persistent is a difficult task, think of the bee. A red clover blossom contains less than one-eighths of a grain of sugar, 7,000 grains are required to make a pound of honey. A bee, flitting here and there for sweetness, must visit 56,000 clover heads for a pound of honey; and there are about sixty flower tubes to each clover head. When a bee performs that operation 60 times 56,000 or 3,360,000 times, it secures enough sweetness for only one pound of honey. My what could the church accomplish if we had the persistence and faithfulness of the bee!



Across The Preacher's Desk

If you talk to my wife or daughter-in-law, they will tell you I am one of the best drivers around at missing a turn. Sometimes, we all do that, and when we do, we can back up. We can put the car in reverse. When you think about it, often one of the best ways to correct an error is to back up.

In addition to mechanical reverses, there are also physical or material reverses. If someone finds themselves in the wrong job or profession, they back up and find another one. When we make a purchase, there is the right to return it for an exchange or refund. There are "idiot turns" on the freeway for folks like me without a GPS.

Yet, our greatest need is for spiritual reverses. It was the great preacher of another era, Marshall Keeble who said, "The biggest problem with people is that they just don't want to back up". However, the Bible tells us there are two roads of life. There is the broad way or the narrow way. The right way or the wrong way. The way of life or the way of death. Sometimes we need to back up so we can get on the right road.

When the Bible speaks of reverse, the word used is repent. It means a change of conduct to back up and go the right way. This is often the greatest need in our lives. Repentance, putting yourself in reverse, backing up, is the hardest work of man. It is the most difficult thing a proud man or woman is called on to do. However, if we are willing to repent, our God is the God of the second chance.

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

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

Each one bring one!