

# Let's Visit

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## Paul's Wastebasket

Paul's letter to the church at Philippi is one of his most encouraging letters. It was written to a church that was near and dear to his heart. It is not a letter like the first letter he wrote to Corinth. That letter dealt with divisions and immorality within the Corinthian church. It is a letter that has been described as "strong reproofs for a scandalous church".

We read of the beginning of this great church in Philippi in Acts chapter 16. Paul and his company went to the place of prayer and they found Lydia there. The Lord opened her heart and she and her household attended to the things Paul taught and were baptized. In the city there was a young slave girl and Paul cast the evil spirit from her. Well, that made her masters angry and they had Paul and Silas arrested, beaten and thrown into prison. At midnight, they sang and prayed and the prison doors were opened and their chains were loosed. I like to call that the "great prison revival". They taught the way of the Lord to the jailer and his household and they were baptized and converted to Christ.

In this letter to this church, there is a passage in Philippians 3:13-14 that is my favorite passage in this letter. Here is what it says, "*forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*"

We may not want to admit it, but all of us have an imperfect past. All of us can look back and see something we are ashamed of. We all have blemishes and stains. We all have things we'd just as soon no one knew about and that we would like to forget.

As great a saint as Paul was, he was no different than we are. Paul had a pretty ugly past in persecuting the church. I'm guessing that after he came to know Jesus, he had plenty of time to reflect on the shame of what he had done.

However, we do not have to be a slave to the past. When Paul thought about the kind of life he had lived, he could have just given up. He had put people in prison. More than that, he had put people to death for being Christians. Paul could have insisted there was not hope for him, there was no way the Lord could use him. Yet, Paul insisted he had something worth moving on for.

We must remember that moving on does not happen by accident. Moving on, moving forward, only happens by intentional and determined effort. Paul says, "I press on. I strive, I strain" for what is ahead. He tells us that the goal is worth the effort. In fact, Paul even calls it a prize. When our focus is on living for Jesus, we win! I am firmly convinced that one reason some folks have such a lukewarm relationship with Jesus is they see the work but they don't see the prize.

We can join Paul in this resolve. If our relationship with Jesus has been lukewarm, we can do better. Lukewarm is not what Jesus wants for

(Continued on page 3)

### 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

### **"What Is Your Opinion of Jesus?"**

Our text comes from Matthew 22:42, where the question was asked by Jesus, "What think ye of Christ". Well, what do you think of Christ, what is your opinion?

## **FOR THE PANTRY....**

**Spam**

## **The Christian and Prayer**

Do you pray often? Are you sincere in your prayers? How much time per day do you spend in prayer? Is it the opening thing of your day and the closing thing of your night? Are you satisfied with your prayer life?

If you aren't, there must be some reason that the Christian is being defeated in his praying. What do you suppose would defeat him?

Isn't it true that the Christian can be so occupied with things that are legitimate and honorable that he simply does not have time to pray? It isn't wrong to work, it isn't wrong to make a living, it isn't wrong to be in conversation with noble friends-but all these things take time. Sometimes the Christian is not the master of his schedule that he should be and he allows too many good things to prohibit him from doing something that is superior – like praying.

Every conflict that the Christian has however is not with a good thing. Sometimes his worldly associations appetites and occupations take him from praying. From these things, there is but one thing to do – divorce himself.

Christians sometimes are slow to pray because of their pride. They feel they are fully able to work

out their own problems, they can handle each affair, they do not need the help of a superior power. This pride can damn a soul.

If the devil can stop the Christian from praying, he can to a certain extent cripple and tie the hands of the church Are you allowing him to do this in your life?

*-Just A Moment  
October 28, 1962*

## **What Is The Difference?**

Between the atheist who supports no church, and the member who will not support the one to which he or she belongs?

Between the skeptic who does not believe the Bible, and the negligent Christian who never reads it?

Between those who do not believe in Bible classes, and those who never attend them?

Between the man of the world, and a person in the church who lives like a man of the world?

Between a sectarian preacher, and a gospel preacher who refuses to tell the truth on certain subjects?

*-borrowed*

## *On The Lighter Side.....*



*So, you think we should become a  
"Mega-Church" Earl? Would you care to  
elaborate on that a little?*

# 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** confined at home with back issues.

**Wayne Sims** recovering from surgery.

**Cody Butler**, hospitalized in Tyler.

**Bobbi Holder** has been diagnosed with Covid 19 and asked to be remembered in our prayers.

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

**Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,  
Leland Bradshaw**

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*When a little bird tells you something,  
don't repeat it until you find out whether or not  
the little bird is a little cuckoo.*

*To avoid the risk of losing their religion, a lot of  
folks never take it to work with them.*

*Poor memory is a great blessing. We couldn't  
lift our heads if we hadn't forgot the times  
when we acted foolish.*

*A true love for humanity will save us  
from becoming pessimists.*

## Paul-s Wastebasket – continued from page 1

and me. Jesus wants us to be on fire for Him, loving Him, serving Him, and living for Him.

We can spend more time in the study of the word and in prayer, especially prayer. We can let God speak to us through His word. But, what we need to do more than anything else is spend time talking to God in prayer. We need to tell Him the deepest desires of our heart.

However, we must also throw unforgiveness and resentment in the wastebasket. Let's be honest. Some of us have been hurt and hurt deeply. Others have just gotten their feelings hurt a little. In any case, often folks hold on to that and refuse to forgive those even who ask our forgiveness.

To be sure, being unable or unwilling to forgive is a dangerous thing to keep in our lives. Jesus said that if we forgive, God will forgive us. He also said if we do not forgive, God will not forgive us.

What Paul is talking about here is starting over. With Jesus Christ we can do that. We can forget the things behind and reach toward the things before us. That is what Paul did. The New Testament is filled with those who made new beginnings. Folks whose life was in tatters and ruins and who had no promise of a bright future. People like Zacchaeus, the woman at Jacob's well, the woman brought to Jesus who had been caught in adultery and so many others. Through Jesus Christ they made new beginnings, and through Jesus Christ we can also make a new beginning. We can, with Paul, forget the things behind and reach toward the things that are before. We can, we should, we must.

*tp*

## Shopping

One of these days I must go shopping. I am completely out of self-respect. I want to exchange some self-righteousness I picked up the other day for some humility which they say is less expensive and wears better. I want to look at some tolerance, which is being used for wraps this season. Some one showed me some pretty samples of peace; we are a little low on that – and once can never have too much of it. And I must try to match some patience that my neighbor wears. It is very becoming one her and I think it might look well on me. I must look around for some inexpensive everyday goodness. It is surprising how quickly one's stock of goodness is depleted

*-selected*



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Unexpected dinner guests. Have you ever had that happen? That is what happens to Jesus and the disciples in Mark chapter 6. John the Baptist had just been killed and Jesus and the disciples were trying to get to a secluded place. They were tired from the teaching and healing being done. They were leading busy lives and needed a little R & R.

It is on this occasion that we find Jesus taking 5 loaves and 2 fish and feeding 5,000 men. Yet, notice the question Jesus asked them in Mark 6:38. He asked, "how many loaves have ye?"

Jesus was not asking for information. He was not asking because he couldn't do it without their loaves. He was, rather, trying to teach them and us a lesson. He wanted them and us to know that He is to bless others through us. He wanted those disciples to know they must be willing to use what they have. We must be willing to use what we have also.

You see, what we have must be given into His hands. We are to use our strength, our tongue and our heart. We are to use our material means. We are to be the earthen vessels in the service of Jesus. Jesus asks us today, "how many loaves have ye?". Are we using what we have, the talents He has given us, in His service?

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

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**