



LET'S VISIT

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IS WORSHIP CONVENIENT?

Oftentimes, I wonder how many of us really take to heart the story of the cross. Do we really, down deep in our hearts believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that he died on the cross for our sins?

Is it something that genuinely touches us in the depths of our soul or is it just something we give mental assent to and accept as a historical fact?

Go with me back to that dreadful night in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is praying, he is pouring out his heart to the Father. He falls on his face and he says, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39. Jesus prayed that prayer three times and Luke's account tells us that sweat as great drops of blood fell from his brow. Can we feel that agony of heart that gripped our Lord that night in the Garden?

Judas betrayed Jesus and they came and arrested Him. He went through the mockery of a trial, he was scourged. That sounds rather innocuous to us in our day and time. Yet, do we really know what a scourging was? It was a bearing, and yet it was not just any beating. It was 39 stripes laid across a man's bare back as hard as a husky man could swing a whip. Actually, the whip would have bits of metal or bone tied in the ends. With each lash across the back, the flesh would be ripped open and begin bleeding. There were many men that did not survive a Roman scourging. Can you feel the pain of that beating that Jesus took for us? Yet, that was just the beginning.

Jesus was beaten with rods, he was slapped around, he was spit upon and a crown of thorns was thrust down upon his head. Beaten, bruised and bloodied, Jesus was taken out to a place called Calvary where he was to be crucified. They drove nails through his hands and a spike through his feet

and fastened him to a rough hewn Roman Cross where he died. Of course, we know that was not the end of the story. God raised Jesus from the dead and through his death he provided salvation for our souls. The blood that Jesus shed was the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

How I wish that somehow, the cross and the suffering of Jesus could be real for all of us. You see, I am quite certain that the scourging, the beating, the mockery, the crown of thorns and the cross were a major inconvenience for Jesus. I feel confident that there were many other things he would have rather done than die on the cross that day.

Jesus asks that we as Christians worship and serve Him. He asks that we observe his death with a memorial feast every first day of the week. Yet, so often we find that difficult to do. Sometimes we have had a hard week and need a little rest. Sometimes there are things we would rather do. We need some time for ourselves, for our family, to recharge our energy for the week ahead. We can come up with a myriad of excuses why we can't be present with the Saints of God on the Lord's day. I wonder how many excuses Jesus could have come up with to not go to the cross? I am quite sure that it had been a hard week for him. I am equally sure that he would have rather been doing most anything else than enduring the pain he had to endure.

(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



A Victorious Service

For The Pantry. . .

September 27 – Pop Tarts or Cookies



**September 20, 2026
\$ 3,272.00**

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

Is Worship Convenient? – Continued from page 1

It is time that we took the cross seriously. It is time that we came face to face with the reality of the suffering that Jesus endured. When that happens, then we will find that it is not so inconvenient to give a little of our time in worship on the Lord's Day.

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Asking The Right Question

It was January 20, 1961 that John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States. As a part of his inaugural address, President Kennedy made the statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country". This challenge, suggests a like principle which should guide and challenge the attitude of every Christian toward the church. We should be less concerned about what is being done for us and more attentive to what we are doing for others.

Ask not, therefore. . .

Whether this is a good congregation of which to be a member, but ask whether I am a good member of the congregation.

How much I am loved, but how much love I show to others.

How many get-well cards I received, but how many I have sent to others.

Who visited me, but whom have I visited.

How much I get out of classes, but how much I contribute to make classes interesting and edifying.

Whether I was remembered in prayer, but whether I have faithfully remembered others in my prayers.

Who did or did not speak to me, but how many others I myself spoke to and greeted.

Whether my good work is recognized, but whether I have given honor to whom honor is due.

How many prayer requests God has granted, but how many grateful prayers I have given for many innumerable blessings.

What extent my deeds have profited me now, but how my life has profited God and how it will be remembered after I am gone.

-selected

On The Lighter Side. . .



Being an usher isn't as easy as it looks



MAKE YOUR PLANS TO BE HERE!

December 6, 2026

We will be having a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship.



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Make your plans to join us on **Wednesday, September 30, 2026** when we will meet at 6:00 for our fellowship meal and followed by singing at 7:00 p.m.

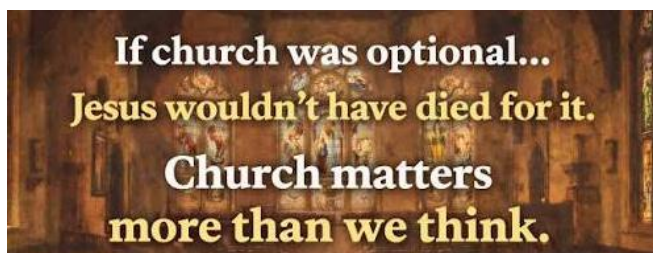
If you don't want to come and share the meal, **PLEASE** plan to come and join us for the singing.

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There will be a men's business meeting Next Sunday, **October 4, 2026** in the church offices immediately following the morning worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



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Harris Smith, infant son of Clay and Lauren Smith (friends of Tim and Norma Perkins) was born this past Monday with a breathing disorder and spent several days in NICU. He weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 inches long

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Norma Cortez** (Manny Ortiz mother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Pat & William Ford** (cousins to Martha Bradshaw) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Doug "Goob" Milford** (cousin of Amanda Molloy) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **Harold Wiggins** (Stephen Wiggins father) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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Communion Preparation - September
Larry & Melonia Molloy

Please Take Note...

This is a request for your help and cooperation. When the services are over, please take note of the area around you. We are asking for you to help us by making sure you take your bulletin and order of worship with you, put the song book back in the rack and help us keep the auditorium neat and tidy. Your help will be sincerely appreciated.



Across The Preacher's Desk

Some years ago, I was walking through the mall and saw a display in the window of a Jewelry store. The display featured gold and silver crosses of various sizes, some with diamonds, some with birthstones and some plain. They were neatly arranged with other types of jewelry, all with a cross as their central theme. In a corner of the display was a neat little sign that said, "Easy Terms Available".

You know, that makes us wonder if that is not what modern religion has done to the cross of Jesus Christ. Have we turned the cross into a fashionable trinket, an adornment? Something available to everyone on "Easy Terms"?

Jesus did not promise men and women an "easy" road. On the contrary, he called men and women to selfless service and daily sacrifice. He dared ask people to "forsake all" and come follow Him. You may find a cross in the jewelry store window on "easy terms". You may even hear preachers offer you the opportunity to follow Jesus on "easy terms". However, the cross of Jesus is not available on "easy terms".

Here is what Jesus said in His own words, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24)

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**