

Let's Visit

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Failure

One thing can be said of us as Americans. We have very little patience with losers. When Peyton Manning, Drew Brees, or Dak Prescott are winning, they are heroes. In fact, they are everybody's hero. Yet, let them hit a drought or lose a few games. Let them throw some interceptions. It is then that the fans turn into "fault finders". Let's be honest. We hate losers and we love winners.

Failure is considered the unpardonable sin. We canonize champions and adore achievers. We worship winners and we sanctify the successful. Everybody wants to be number one and everyone wants to be a winner.

In his book, "I Pass", Y. A. Tittle tells of meeting Otis Mitchell. Otis Mitchell had come to Marshall High School as head football coach in 1941. Here is what he said at that very first team meeting. "Gentlemen, my name is Otis Mitchell. I am your new coach. I think it will be better for all of us if I tell you right now that I have not come to Marshall to coach a losing football team. There is no such thing as a good loser. I do not want good losers on my football team. If any of you are satisfied to finish second turn in your suits right now. I am looking for boys who want to win it all. The world is full of good losers. I want good winners!"

To be truthful, I have never met anyone in life who said their goal was to fail. Everyone strives for success because failure comes all too easy. You see, failure is a part of life. Yet, even though failure is a fact, we can seek to minimize our mistakes and failure. However, the issue is not how to keep from failing. The issue is how to survive and recover from failure.

Everybody fails. If you have made mistakes, then welcome to the human race. James would write

in James 3:2, "*In many things we all stumble.*" You and I are in this verse. Failure is a part of life and we are going to fail in many ways.

We can however take heart from the fact that failure is not fatal. Often we over-exaggerate the effects of our failures. We blow them totally out of proportion. The fear of failure is actually worse than failure in what it does to your life. The fear of failure can often paralyze our action.

There is a verse in Proverbs 24:16 that I especially like. It reads, "*A righteous man falleth seven times and riseth up again*". That verse gives me hope. It says even the best of people make mistakes. The difference between a failure and a success in life is that successful people simply get up and keep on going.

What we must do is redefine failure. Failure is not failing to reach your dream. Failure is not having a dream. Failure is not setting a goal and missing it, failure is not having a goal. Failure is not falling down, failure is refusing to get back up.

Probably no one ever had a greater reason to consider himself a failure than Paul. Yet, listen to what he said in Philippians 3:13-14, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, 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.*" 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



Today's Sermon

“Thou Shalt Not Grumble”

Our text comes from Exodus 16:1-8. God wants his people to be a joyous people, not a pessimistic, complaining people.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Macaroni and Cheese

Make The Best of Opportunity

One of the great principles of Christianity is stated in the words, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10) The word opportunity is used five times in the New Testament. Twice it refers to opportunities sought; once it refers to the lack of opportunity; and twice it refers to God’s provision for men to do the things the Lord wanted done.

It is preeminently the Christian’s business to do good. We are to continually look for our God-sent opportunities to help those around us. If we have an opportunity to do good and fail to use it through carelessness or indifference on our part, we deny the fundamental reason for our “re-creation” in Christ. We sin.

Christianity is not only abstinence from evil. A tragic picture is presented in Matthew 12:44 of a man whose life was corrupted by an evil spirit. This evil spirit went away but returned and found the house empty, swept and painted. Though the floor was clean and the walls painted, it was still an empty house. Repentance from dead works leaves our lives like that if we do not fill them with the services our opportunities afford. The life that is sinful is not Christian and the life that is empty is not Christian. The Christian is one who is busy as

his Master was. It is said of Him, “He went about doing good”.

We know even now that all things work together for the good of the lovers of God. When a tragedy happens in a community, or sorrow overtakes a member of the church, or a disaster comes, what are these things but God’s chosen opportunities through which the faith and love of his people can shine? The Lord teaches us not to under-value the traits that we experience, but to count them more precious than gold, for it is when we are tried and pass the test that we develop patience and allow the light of the glory of God to shine through us into a darkened world. When we take our trials and tragedies and make them serve the Divine purpose we have learned to grasp opportunities and become Christians in the best sense of the word.

-Just A Moment

November 17, 1951

On The Lighter Side.....



**HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU
TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?**

* * * * *

*Some people seem to think there is greater safety
in their ability to worry,
than in the Lord’s ability to protect.*

*Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It
beats money and power and influence. It is
nothing more or less than faith in action.*

Miscellaneous



The Painting on the exterior is almost completed, the new carpet is ordered for the Fellowship Hall, and the roofers are scheduled to replace the flat roof portion of the building at their earliest opportunity. Exciting things are happening.



September 13, 2020

Our annual "Friends and Family Day" is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2020.

Pray that we can have the worst of this pandemic behind us and have a wonderful time of Worship and Fellowship on that day!



Those To Remember In Prayer

Wayne Sims in recovering from cancer surgery.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Leland Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

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

Carry Your Own Candle

You will see in the world chiefly that for which you are looking. A farmer going through the country thinks of the farms and the grain in the fields; an architect examines the style and structures of buildings; a merchant the conditions of the market; and so a man going through the world will see the most of that for which he especially looks. He who is watching for blessings will find them in abundance.

Have you schooled yourself into believing that bad luck is on its way to your door? Are you like the man who stayed in bed every Friday the thirteenth for fear something would happen to him? Do you jump every time the telephone rings at night or have cold shills at the sight of a certified letter?

Such people usually have perpetually drawn faces, as though they had a pain or expected one! They are afraid to mention the good health they have had in the past unless they knock on wood to quiet the spirit that might consider them boastful! It's a shame when a person is too superstitious to count his blessings aloud!

When you wake each morning, carry your own candle of happiness with you, determined to find light everywhere you go. The day may have dark spots, hard-to-get through spots, but a brave little candle can make thick darkness less foreboding. Beyond the circle of your candle, you may not be able to see, but quit looking out there! You carry your own candle of faith and happiness, and when you move, it will move also and again there will be light!

Shelter your candle. Strengthen your faith in God and his loving kindness, so that no sudden gust of disappointment and loss will put out your flame! It takes strength of character to carry your own candle.

-Just A Moment



Across The Preacher's Desk

I read a story not long ago about a businessman, a man who was quite busy. He was harassed, discouraged and overwhelmed with all the pressure he was under. He had deadlines to meet, projects to complete and a never ending list of things he needed to take care of. Finally, in desperation, he decided to consult a psychiatrist. The good doctor immediately told him to slow down and work less. He also had some further instructions. He told the man to spend one hour every week in the cemetery. This puzzled the businessman and he immediately asked "why?". He was told to just go to the cemetery, look around and get to know some of the names of the permanent inhabitants located there. The doctor informed him that these people did not finish their work either. They went to the cemetery with tasks uncompleted. They had not accomplished all that they set out to do. No one does.

Are we in that story? Do we become so involved, obsessed and burdened by the things of this life that we crowd the Lord out of our lives? Are we so "involved" with this world that we have no time to give faithful worship to God? You see, some day, we will take time away from all the things that seem so important to us now – permanently. When we do, the world will go right on without us .

Perhaps it's time to slow down and take the time to put God first in our lives.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**