

Let's Visit

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Make No Small Plans!

I once heard a speaker make the statement to an audience, "When planning to live, make no small plans." When I first heard that statement, I made a mental note of it, thinking how much we need this advice in our work for the Lord. The reason many churches have not advanced beyond what they were some years ago is that they have not planned to advance. There are many ways in which the church is like a business. It is certain that it does not live by chance. The church grows because growth is planned. The church expands because it has a plan for expansion. The church is educated because it has a program of education. Much is done in every phase of the work where much is planned.

There are several hindrances that should never have been allowed to enter the thinking of God's people in planning God's work. One is, "We are small in number, therefore cannot expect much." In the first place, the person who makes such a statement reveals his or her lack of knowledge of the scriptures or of the world's history. Another related to this is, "We are poor in this world's goods, therefore cannot do much." All of this reveals the subconscious thinking that always produces failure if allowed to interfere with our work. This kind of thinking will always sway us in our planning. It is dangerous to ever think of defeat when we are serving God. God has never been defeated. Many of his children have, but it was after they ceased to trust in God. Often, when we feel the hour is darkest, when we are ready to quit, that is when we need to let our faith in God show through. The history of God's dealings with his people will show that there was never a failure, whether the people were many or few, poor or rich, when they trusted in God. Great numbers, and a great wealth both have

failed when God was placed in the background. There is another of these major hindrances and that is the feeling that "we have done a good work and are entitled to rest for a time." Is that the teaching of Jesus? Did the church at Jerusalem rest when their number mounted into the thousands? The only instances we have in the Bible of the church having rest, is in having rest from their enemies. When such occasions came about the same statement that described them said they "grew mightily", "increased in numbers", "multiplied". They were busy in the service of God.

Look at the history of any church that has made outstanding progress in the service of God. In every instance you will find people who were willing to tackle big plans. You will find people who were so busy doing the big things for God that they had not time to spend in the small matters of human weaknesses. You will also find people who trusted God when God was all that was present to trust. But such faith and efforts always bring about success.

Let's be sure that in the service of the Lord we make no small plans. Let's dream big dreams and make big plans. I dare say that most of us have never planned anything up to our ability, much less beyond our ability. So, in the language of the speaker I heard, "When planning our lives for God, make no small plans."

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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

"The Net"

Our text comes from Matthew 13:47-50. In this parable, Jesus describes our responsibility as fishermen.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Canned Vegetables

Preach The Gospel!

Paul urged Timothy to preach the word because "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (II Timothy 4:3) "Sound Doctrine" is literally, "healthful teaching".

A soul may be healthy as well as a body (II John 2). It is made and kept healthy by healthful teaching. But, there seems to be a tendency to often equate sound doctrine with attacks on other religious groups, sermons on baptism etc.

G. D. Brewer, a giant among preachers in another day related an incident early in his career that illustrates this point. He began a meeting with a series of sermons on the love and mercy of God, the sacrifice of Christ, and followed these lessons with one on baptism for the remission of sins. After that sermon, a brother said to him, "Well, I knew if we waited long enough you would finally get around to preaching the gospel." After lessons on God's love and mercy, and the saving blood of Christ, he finally got around to the gospel!

And so it is. A sermon on why we baptize for the remission of sins is a "good, old fashioned gospel sermon." A lesson on selfishness or kindness is endured but little appreciated.

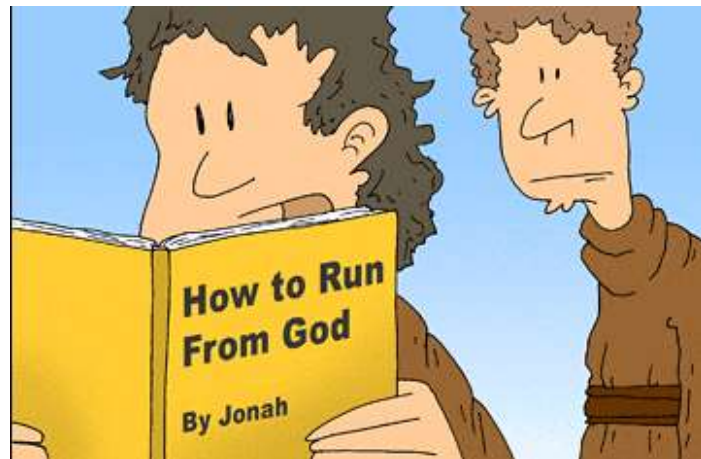
At times a lesson on baptism or instrumental music is needed. But so is one that shows we may

be baptized for the remission of sins and sing without the instrument and still not worship acceptably. A sermon about observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday is a gospel sermon, and so is one that shows that we may partake of it each Sunday, every Sunday, and never really commune with Christ because of the condition of our heart.

There will always be the danger among churches of Christ that some might desire to use the instrument in worship or take the Lord's Supper on some day of the week other than the Lord's day. However, this is not the real danger. The real danger is that we will do all of the right things in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose. Beloved, we need "healthful teaching" in every field.

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On The Lighter Side....



IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

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We want to express our appreciation to Matt Perkins for bringing our lessons the past two Wednesday evenings and teaching the Bible Class and Preaching this morning.

There are many individuals who throw their tongue into high gear and overdrive long before they get their grain started.

Experience is what causes a person to make new mistakes instead of the same old ones.

Often we show a very fine command of language when we say nothing.

Miscellaneous

Friends & Family Day



Invite your
family and
friends and plan
to be here!

September 12, 2021

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Anxiety does
not empty
tomorrow of
its sorrows,
but only
empties today
of its
strength.

Charles Spurgeon



Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to Betty Miller in the loss of her sister-in-law **Jo Windham**. She lost her battle with cancer last week. Services were conducted this past Friday in Mississippi.

Jerry Pate is scheduled for knee surgery this coming Wednesday in Houston.

Phillip Patton, the preacher at the Marshall Church of Christ is in ICU with COVID. He is critical but stable.

Gayle Foster of the Wildwood Congregation in Carthage is recovering from Cancer Surgery. She will be taking Chemotherapy for several weeks.

Wayne Sims is having more Chemotherapy.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Ted and Joyce Holt, Betty Miller, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Melvin Williams

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother)
Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) **Gil Boullion** (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-granddaughter) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **Keeth Fontenot** (Debra Pate's son) undergoing tests for suspicious knot on his neck **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'Brien,) cancer **Liam Martinez** (11 months old) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **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.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

9:45 a.m.

Mid-Week Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening



Across The Preacher's Desk

Jesus was a man of few words, that was His general character. He was not one of those who would tell you how to make a watch. Neither was He one who used flattery or exaggeration. When Jesus complimented someone, the things He said were very few.

When Jesus gave someone a compliment, it was not superficial. It had nothing to do with a person's clothing or style. It had to do with their heart and their character.

When Jesus was first introduced to Nathaniel, he said, "behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile" (John 1:47). When Jesus spoke of John the Baptist, he said that among those born of woman, there was none greater than John (Luke 7:28).

When Mary anointed Jesus with the costly ointment, Jesus said that wherever the gospel would be preached, that would be spoken of as a memorial to her.

Some day, when our forms have been bended low and we cross the great divide into eternity, I want to hear a compliment from the lips of Jesus. I want to hear Him say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". I want to live my life so that I will hear Him speak those words. If we are to hear those words, we must live His kind of life and live it His way.

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

**Commitment
Builds
Great
Churches!**