



LET'S VISIT

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A WORLD WITHOUT CHRIST

The "Thanksgiving Holiday" is behind us, "Black Friday" has come and gone and we are officially in the "Christmas Season". This is the season when the majority of the religious world chooses to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Yet, it is doubtful that Christ was born this season of the year. God has withheld such knowledge from us for His own good reason. The Bible does not give us the exact date of Christ's birth, or tell us to celebrate His birthday. Actually, God commanded us to celebrate not the birth of Christ but to celebrate His death. We do this each Lord's Day when we gather around the table to observe the Lord's Supper.

However, since we do not know the date of Christ's birth, and we are not commanded to celebrate His birthday, we do not celebrate His birthday. Yet, with all of that said, it is good that for at least a few weeks each year, people are focused on Jesus Christ. It is never out of place to think and talk of the birth of the one who has given to our world most of the things that are worth thinking and talking about. You see, the important thing is not when Christ came, the important thing is that He came. We are in the habit of taking things for granted, and are often unthankful. Often we are guilty of taking Christ for granted. There are many blessings we enjoy because Christ graced this earth with His presence.

Have you ever thought what our world would be like if Christ had not come? The world of art would be poverty stricken without the coming of Christ. If Christ had not come, music would be entirely different. We would no longer have the great Christian hymns. Can you imagine a world without "Rock of Ages" or "The Old Rugged Cross?" If Christ had not come, the history of the world would

relate a different story. Were you to take from the history texts of the world the pages that have been influenced by Christ, these books would be but shadows of their former selves.

Without Christ, there would, of course, be no Christian religion. He is the founder, as well as the very substance of Christianity. To be a Christian is to believe in, obey and follow Christ. He is, as the Hebrew writer puts it, "*the author and finisher of our faith*" (Hebrews 12:2). Without Christ, the church would not exist and there would be no Christian fellowship or worship.

Without Christ there would be no Gospel "*God's power to save*" (Romans 1:16). Deprived of the gospel, lives that have been lifted from the slime pits of sin would sink to their former state. There would be no remission of sins. The law, with its blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. Only the sacrifice of the "*Lamb of God, who came to take away the sin of the world.*" could atone for the sins of humanity.

You see, without Jesus, not only would we have no forgiveness of sins, there would be no assurance of immortality. It was Jesus who gave to the world a picture of the other side of death. Until His coming, the hope of life beyond the grave was no more than a faint, glimmering ray, born of man's inherent desire

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
KSLA 12 - Shreveport - 11:00 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 373 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



No Excuses !

**For The Pantry. . .
December 1 – Green Beans**

Offering – November 24, 2024. . . \$ 2,573.00

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

A World Without Christ – continued from page 1

for immortality. Remember, as Jesus was preparing to go to the Father, he said, *"In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2)

If we take the time to consider what this world would be like if Christ had not come, we thank God both today and tomorrow that 2,000 years ago there was born in Bethlehem of Judea a babe, who was Christ the Lord and we thank God for the blessings that he brought.

tp

Be Not Weary in Well-Doing

Oftentimes it may seem to us that we are not making the kind of progress we should be making. We get discouraged and despondent. Yet, when we turn to the word of God, we find these words from the pen of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:9, *"And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"*.

The natural desire of all is to achieve success, and to do it quickly. Repeated effort that does not bring what we want is painful — "hope deferred maketh the heart sick." But our impatience betrays a lack of faith in God. The farmer has more faith when he plants his seed, trusting that God will send rain and give the crop. "He that goeth forth and

weepeth, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him."

Even Christians who set their hope in God are sometimes the victims of impatience. When they cannot convert the world, or their city, or even their closest neighbors, they want the Lord to come now, and bring the world to an end. Christians in Thessalonica believed that the day of the Lord was just at hand, gave up their daily work and went about as pious busybodies. Discipline was needed and Paul applies it: *"Now them that are such we command and exhort that with quietness they work and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."* Let us keep at our work, remain patient, and trust in God.

-borrowed

On The Lighter Side. . .



**I'VE BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I
HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MY MESSAGE
ACROSS LATELY**

Ouch – that hurts. . .

A stranger entered the auditorium during the middle of the preacher's sermon and took a seat on the back row. After a while he began to fidget and leaned over to the white haired man at his side who was evidently a long time member of the congregation. He then whispered, "How long has he been preaching?" The white haired elderly gentleman replied, "About 30 or 40 years, I think." The stranger then said, "I'll stay then, he must be nearly through."



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Jackie Barnes (Friend of Gene & Martha Bradshaw) Cohen Byrnes (infant son of Trey and Alex Byrnes) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Kutter Milford (Cissy Amos' grandson) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Steward (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

March 2, 2025 – "Pack-A-Pew Sunday"

April 25-27, 2025 – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



No Excuse Sunday!

Sunday, December 8, 2024 is the day set aside for our annual "No Excuse Sunday". There will be no acceptable excuse for missing worship that day! Make your plans **NOW** to be here and bring someone or several someones to be your guest.

Of course we will be having a covered dish luncheon that day following the morning worship. Hospitality group 3 will be responsible for this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Martha Bradshaw, Sheri Burgay, Tiffanne Klein, and Trish Lout.



MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, December 8, 2024 following our covered dish luncheon in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

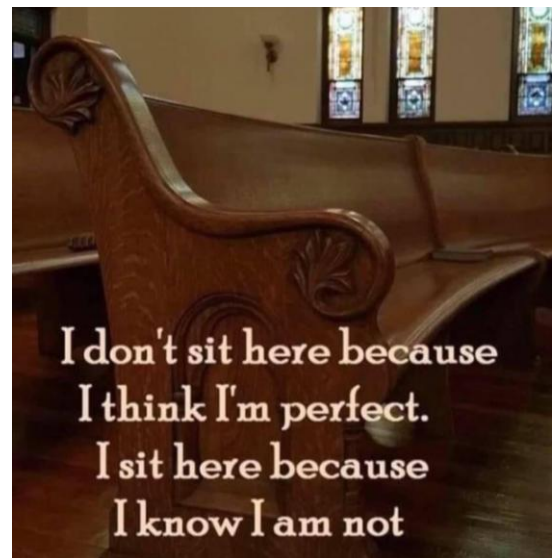


ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Sunday December 15, 2024

Immediately following the morning worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring finger food – think outside the box!
Men bring a gift for a man and women bring a gift for a lady and remember there is a \$20.00 limit on the gift.
Plan to come and have a good time!





Across The Preacher's Desk

I read a story once about three men who were lost in a blizzard. The first was so cold and tired that he could not go on, but stumbled and fell into the snow. The second decided to go on alone, hoping to reach a shelter some distance away. The third, however, would not leave his friend but knelt down beside him and vigorously rubbed his friend's hands and feet until the blood started to circulate freely again. As he worked on his friend he noticed that he, too, was getting warmer because of the exercise and soon both of them could continue on together. A short distance before they reached the shelter, they stumbled over the frozen form of the man who tried to make it alone.

You see, by helping others we often are helping ourselves. Going on alone may prove costly to us. Yet, helping others involves more than making certain their physical needs are cared for. Often, we take care of physical needs and ignore the spiritual poverty of our friends and loved ones. Helping others involves making certain they know about Jesus Christ.

What are we doing about taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost? Not in a corporate and congregational sense, but what are we doing individually to bring lost souls to Jesus? Maybe we can't all teach publicly but all of us can set the proper example. All of us can proclaim by our faithfulness the importance of the Lord's church. When our friends and neighbors see our attitude toward the church and toward our brethren, when they see the level of commitment we have toward the church, what do they estimate the worth of the church is to us?

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**