



# LET'S VISIT

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## THE POWER OF LOVE

When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Rome, he included some practical duties involved in living the Christian life. In fact, in chapter 12 and verses 20 and 21, we find these words; *"therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

Of all the forces in the universe, love is the most powerful. It is more powerful than physical force or sarcasm. It is more powerful than "raking someone over the coals" with a stern rebuke and stronger than any argument.

We must realize that every emotion that we have, good or bad, reacts upon us. If we harbor hatred and bitterness in our heart, the individual we hate suffers as a result of our hatred. Yet, they do not suffer to the degree that we suffer. We cannot hurt our brother or sister without hurting ourselves. Hatred is toxic. It is a mental poison which destroys the finest qualities of the soul.

On the other side, the individual we love is blessed by our love. Yet, no matter how much we love, they are not blessed to the degree that we are blessed. We cannot offer aid and help to our fellow traveler on life's way without helping ourselves. Granted, sometimes our love may fail to touch the heart of our enemy, but it is never in vain. Love extended toward others purifies us, makes us more like God and makes us fit for heaven.

When others become aware of our love, happy results will follow. You see, love overcomes. It disarms the foe, hushes the cynic, and puts the enemy to shame. Whenever drastic methods fail as they always do, love wins. The wise man put it this way in

Proverbs 15:1; *"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."*

While hatred drives people from us, love draws them to us and it binds them to us. Love is the cement, the bond. In Colossians chapter 2 and verse 2 Paul talks about Christians being "knit together in love" and then in chapter 3 and verse 14 he tells us love is the "bond of perfectness". It is the element that preserves the unity of the people of God. Love brings out that which is noble and encouraging. Love makes life worth living.

When we have love in our hearts, it causes the great Spiritual Force in the universe to operate in our favor. Love reaches up from earth and takes hold of the throne of the Almighty and moves it. God takes up his abode in the loving heart and by deeds of love, the divine memory is refreshed. Listen to the words of the Hebrew writer in chapter 6 and verse 10; *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister."*

When our lives and our actions are motivated by love, life is sweeter, the circle of our influence is wider and we are more powerful. Jesus said that by our love for each other, all men would know we are His disciples.

tp

### 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



## *Living Without Regrets*

### For The Pantry. . .

December 14 – Green Beans

**Offering – December 7, 2025 .. \$ 6,810.00**

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

## Love Is Beautiful!

Love is the most beautiful thing in all the world. Love lives not for itself, but always for others. It must find its deepest expression in sacrificial living. For "love that is hoarded, moulds at last." It must be kept pure and strong and active to make human life worthwhile.

The sacredness of love must never be forgotten. Life without love becomes lonely and aimless. But life with love takes on new meaning. And only as we have a true understanding of God's love for man will we be able to appreciate the importance of love in the home. The foundation of the home is based on religion and love.

It becomes a religious obligation that we shall keep the altar fires of love burning brightly. When we are tempted to let the fire die, let us remember these words: "Being true means doing nothing that would bring grief and heartaches to the other party. It means being faithful to the other person's wishes and expectancy. It means being loyal to your highest ideals of what a home should be and can be when you are united."

Love makes faithfulness a pleasure.

*-borrowed*

## How Would We Feel. . .

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to Him?

If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do? And if the excuses were no more justifiable than ours?

If God's promises were no more certain that our own ?

If God withheld his blessings from us as we withhold our offering from Him?

If God loved himself as much as love ourselves and gave as little thought to us as we give to Him?

Think on these things again and again!

*-Just A Moment*

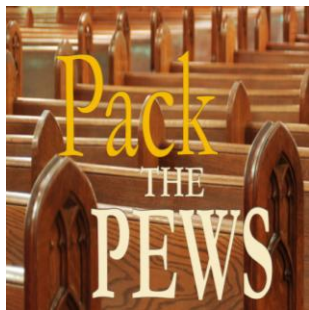
## On The Lighter Side. . .



**"EE-YUK! MARGARET JUST SHOWED ME  
WHAT MISTLETOE IS FOR!"**

Our hearts are saddened with the passing of Ted Holt, a long time member of this congregation. His services are scheduled for Monday, December 15 in Baytown. Cards can be sent to:

Robbie & Carla Holt  
676 County Road 105,  
Caldwell, TX 77836



## Plan To Be Here! March 1, 2026

We will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of March, April and May. We will also enjoy a great time of fellowship together.

Hospitality group 2 is in charge of the luncheon. The members of that group are Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and Norma Perkins.

### Communion Preparation - December Manny & Brittany Ortiz

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING** - Next Sunday (December 14, 2025) immediately following the morning worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend



## December 21, 2025 That's NEXT SUNDAY!

Immediately following the morning worship. Please bring finger foods. Men bring a gift for a man and ladies bring a ladies gift. Please spend no more than \$20.00 on the gift. Invite your friends to come and join us!



### OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, 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; Stanley Amos (Cissy Amos' husband) Krista Andrus (Tim and Norma Perkins niece) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) Peggy Baylor (Tim Bradshaw's mother) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Dot Grant (Friend of Debra Pate) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Albert Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's father) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Karen McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

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

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Reserve these dates for important events  
in the life of our Church for 2026

March 1, 2026 – "Pack-A-Pew Sunday"  
April 24, 2026 – Area Wide Singing & Fellowship  
June 7, 2026 – "Friends and Family Day"  
September 13, 2026 – "Back To Church Sunday"  
December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"  
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party





## Across The Preacher's Desk

Peter was writing about Jesus when he penned these words in I Peter 2:21, "Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps". Sometimes it might be good for us to examine our lives and see how we are doing at following in the steps of Jesus.

Those footsteps of Jesus led him to the waters of baptism, the wilderness of temptation, the house of worship and the fields of service. They led him to the mountain of prayer, the garden of despair, the cross of suffering, the valley of death and ultimately to the throne of God.

When we are faced with temptation, do we come forth victorious as Jesus did or do we yield to that temptation? When we are presented with opportunities of service to others do we consider it an honor to be of service? The briefest biography of Jesus says, "He went about doing good". Can that be said of us?

Jesus went to sinners to save them, to the sick to heal them and to the lost to rescue them. When he went to the mountain of prayer, he spent time there all alone with God and came back from prayer stronger.

When we follow in the steps of Jesus, they will ultimately lead us also to the throne of God, to live eternally in Heaven. Are you following in His steps? If not, right now would be a good time to start.

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

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
55 in '25!**