



# LET'S VISIT

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## LOVE AND FAULT-FINDING

When Jesus spoke to his followers in John chapter 13, he said to them in verses 34 and 35, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” How have we done through the years at taking Jesus at His word? There is a lot of teaching done about the sins that result from a lack of love for God. However, too often we feel justified in our lack of love for one another. We fail to see that a real love for our brethren in Christ indicates that our heart is right before God. John would write in I John 3:14; “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.”

When we are quick to judge and condemn others, it is proof of a lack of true humility. Pride has many forms, and one of them is the love of finding fault, the love of assuming an attitude of superiority toward others. A truly humble person knows too much about their own character to take delight in digging out the faults of others. It was James who said; “speak not evil one of another brethren” (James 4:11). The love of finding fault is utterly unchristian.

The more we pry into the acts and motives of other people, the less time we have to question our own acts and motives. And we get to a place where we no longer have a desire to search out our own motives at all. The Bible teaches us to prove our own selves and the more seriously we examine ourselves, the less likely we are to criticize others.

Sadly, for many people, discovering some form of wrong-dong in the life of a brother or sister is not a sorrow but a delight. It brings an opportunity to spread a choice bit of gossip, to cause people’s eyes to widen and many tongues to lengthen. James and

Paul condemn this spirit in the same voice. James “speak not evil one of another” and Paul said, “why dost thou set at nought thy brother” (Romans 14:10)

It may be difficult, and sometimes impossible to keep from forming unfavorable opinions of others, but we can all abstain from publishing such opinions to the world. How many times have we suspected someone of wrong-doing only to find later that our suspicions were unfounded? Have you been tempted to repeat some gossip against a brother or sister and then felt thankful you held your tongue when the story proved to be untrue?

To be honest, there are not many if any of us in a position to criticize. Remember the words of Paul in Galatians 6:1; “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” However, we often do not have the courage to meet a man or woman face to face and tell them of their sin. Instead, we go to our neighbor and tell them about the sin of our brother or sister, considering ourselves to be great and noble because we have noticed it. What good could such criticism possibly do except prejudice our neighbor against our sinning brother or sister.

The misery and grief caused by this love of finding fault cannot be estimated. When we repeat

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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



## *Playing The Blame Game!*

**For The Pantry. . .**

**January 26 – Ramen Noodles**

**Offering – January 19, 2025 . . \$ 2,181.00**

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

### **Love And Fault-Finding – continued from page 1**

The faults of a brother or sister to another we have not accomplished any good. If we tell the brother or sister their fault as we have seen it without a spirit of meekness then we have done nothing but inflict pain and start an argument.

Each of our own lives are so filled with shortcomings that we often see in another the very thing that is running through our own minds. When we are personally acquainted with an evil, it is easy for us to believe others are doing the same thing. Here is what James says on the subject in James 4:12; *"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"*

We must not be quick to find fault. We must not allow ourselves to enjoy picking out the flaws in other people. It is a serious trait of character and we can make the world a much happier place if we learn to control our tempers and our tongues and to remember James' admonition, *"speak not evil one of another brethren"*.

*tp*

## **Take Your Faith With You!**

As a church member, you are one of a community pledged to the spread of the gospel. Do you realize that serious fact, that a Church member is one of a community pledged to the spread of the gospel?

Do we ever pause to think why we are members of the Church at all? Is it so that when we are married, when we are baptized and when we die we can have the benefit of using the building? Is it to have the right to expect a visit from the minister when we are ill, and to have the equal right to complain bitterly if we do not receive such a visit? Is it a little better to gain help and strength for the days of the week?

We are members of the Church because we are pledged to the spread of the gospel. Where are we going to spread it? I know of many cases where people were, as they claimed, "converted". They were asked what they were going to do tomorrow, now that they were converted. The answer invariable was: "I am going to say my prayers and read my Bible."

That is a very inadequate description of the Christian life. You could do that and never move outside of your own house or room. That could be sheer escapism.

Of course we must say our prayers and read our Bibles-but the object of doing so is to go out into the world and to live for Christ in the shop, the office, the factory and the school.

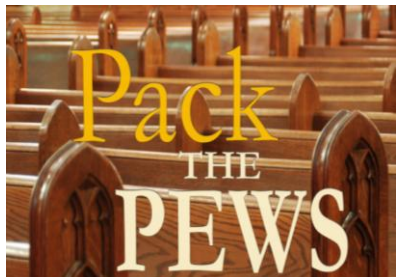
It is there that our Christianity is seen-or not seen. We are in the Church not only for what we can get out of it, but also for what we can bring out of it to others.

*-William Barclay*

## **On The Lighter Side. . .**



**I knew it! Bible Cliff Notes.**



## Sunday March 2nd

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 2, 2025.  
That's the day for our annual

### “Pack-a-Pew Sunday”

Make your plans to be here, bring a guest and let's have a great day to the glory of God!

Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of the luncheon that day. The members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Betty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonie Molloy.

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## Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Our next Wednesday night Fellowship Meal will be on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing together.

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### REMEMBER Next Sunday February 2, 2025

We will present the budget for 2025 during the Bible Class Period at 9:45. All members of the congregation are encouraged to be present.



### --NOTICE---

We are going to update the prayer list at the end of January. Please review the names on here of “Extended Family” and Friends. If you want someone you have placed on the prayer list to continue on the prayer list, please fill out a new card and turn it in to either Norma Perkins or Sarah Fletcher. If we do not receive an updated card, all names will be deleted effective February 1, 2025.

### 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!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

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

September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



## Across The Preacher's Desk

When we read the "Sermon On The Mount" in Matthew 6:24, we hear Jesus tell us that "no man can serve two masters". Yet, in spite of that, there are many in our day and time who want to try to serve the Lord and at the same time be a friend of the world with all its baubles. What we need in our day and time is men and women who are ready to forsake all and serve the Lord. Do you remember the words of Joshua in Joshua 24:15? He says to Israel, "choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . .but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

In that passage you have the wholehearted commitment of a man devoted to God. A commitment for its value depends on not only its content but the one making the commitment. To be sure, the person making the commitment is the greatest factor. Here we have God's man, Joshua, making a spiritual alignment.

The days of Joshua were prosperous. He knew the price of winning. We forget God very easily and here we have Joshua saying that God's way is the only way. God's way is the only way for a changing world and it is the only way for mankind. In our day and time, with all its uncertainty and with its cares and problems, should we not say with Joshua, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord"?

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

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