

# SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 27, 2015

## Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



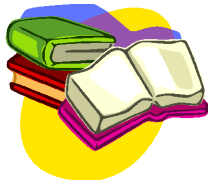
### New Year's Resolutions

*I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I have set my heart on your laws.*  
(Psalm 119:30).

The term "resolution" (as we often think of it) basically means "firm determination to take a course of action." With each New Year many all around the world make their new year's resolutions. With some it is to quit smoking; with others it's to go on a diet or to get more exercise (etc.). Though intentions are usually very good, for many it seems that their determination loses steam in just a short while.

The same kind of frustration can be seen in our spiritual lives. It's not good enough to just talk the talk, we must also walk the walk. There is little good in making noble plans if we will not put those plans into action and see them through.

God (our most perfect example) says of himself, *What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.* (Isaiah 46:11). Let me encourage you to follow God's example. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* (James 1:21)



The Word of God!

### Today's Sermons

a.m. *"Internalizing What Counts"*

John 21:15-23

p.m. *"Groanings Too Deep for Words"*

Romans 8:26, 27

## Welcome Visitors!

**We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.**



*Break in Our Sermon*  
*Series Today*

Due to many still travelling through the New Years holiday, one of our shepherds, Gerald Molina, will resume our Sunday morning sermon series next Lords' Day, 02 January 2016, on discerning God's will as it pertains to matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage.

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**“REMEMBER IN PRAYER  
&  
ENCOURAGE”**



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

**The victims of continuing Islamic terrorism around the world**

The family of **Roger Waters** (Shirley Fowler's brother, of Granada, MS) - who passed away from cancer last Sunday morning. A funeral service was held there for Roger a few days later.

The family of **James Martinez** (nephew of Paul & Teresa Moragne), whose 17 year-old daughter **Brianna** perished in a vehicle accident in North Carolina recently. This in addition to James's mother passing away in September.

**Carl & Shelley Frazier** - their 20-year old son **Sean** perished from heart failure following a long illness.

**Tim Woods** (husband of Jesse Fowler's niece) - has colon cancer that has metastasized into his lungs. Doctors do not give him long to live.

**Angel Mangus** (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

**Lester Lee** (father of the boss of Paul Moragne, Jr.) - has pancreatic cancer and had surgery for it recently.

**Aaron Scheffler** (Evelina Bourgeois's 16 year-old grandson, wheel-chair bound since early childhood) - hospitalized with pulmonary fluid build-up.

**Daniel Ballentine** (brother of Paul Moragne's good friend) - victim of a vehicular accident in Shreveport.

**Eddie Wilkes** - a child who is battling leukemia and undergoing tests.

**Sydne Wilcox** (Mr. Dale's granddaughter) - recovering from recent foot and leg surgery, and now wearing a cast since 16 December.

**Marvin Phillips** (well-known former minister at the Garnett Road church in Tulsa, OK, who led the Soul-Winning Workshops there) - in hospice care with heart problems.

**Dan Ledford** (a preacher of the church in Alabama) - diagnosed as having a brain tumor.

**Donald Boudreaux** (age 86, brother-in-law to Joyce LeBlanc) - diagnosed with renewed cancer.

**James Baker** (Schillinger's grandson, in the third-grade) - has had trouble in school recently, resulting in his undergoing for the next two and a half months an evaluation and processing for eligibility for special education services.

The father-in-law of **Nancy Reece** (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) - hospitalized in Iowa with dementia and other problems.

**Martha Swint** (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) - age 82, suffered a recent heart attack.

**Kimberley Carter** - diagnosed with Epstein-Barr syndrome (mononucleosis). And her liver enzyme readings indicate she may have some other issues as well.

**Toni Doreaux** (Jamie Lawrence's' sister-in-law) - may require permanent dialysis treatments soon.

**Larry Covington** (co-worker of Dorsie's) - hospitalized in an ICU in Jackson, MS with breathing difficulties and low oxygen.

**Rose Acker** - is experiencing periodic brief hospitalizations for congestive heart fluid retention

**Ronald Molina** (Gerald's brother, in E. Tennessee) - battling prostate cancer.

**Roger Whitley** (in-law of the Moragnes) - suffering from emphysema in North Carolina.

**Jase Roig** (premature infant son of Colton Roig) - pray for God's healing hand to be upon through his long-term health problems of an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

**Jessica Jackson** (daughter of a friend of George Roig) - age 26, suffering chronic headaches and depression which have only recently begun.

**Marie Peterson** - recovering at home from recent surgery.

**Mildred Tymkiw** - has returned to her home to continue her recovery from heart surgery. She was able to attend morning worship last Lord's Day. Calls are very much appreciated, but not visits please at this time.

**Jerry Kimbrough** (former member here, now at the church of Christ at S. Baton Rouge) - diagnosed with cancer in his eye, and will be undergoing chemotherapy soon.

**Shirley Ervin** - thanksgiving that she is healing following recent neck surgery and is striving now to return to normal activity levels.

**Debbie Grabert** (former member here, now of Lafourche Parish) - being treated for a staph infection.

**Stephanie Smith** (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

**Zach Steele** - suffering now from abnormal cells in his blood called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). It is what can be called a "second cancer." It's not cancer, but can be, and in his case is a result/side effect of previous treatments for cancer.

Zach will be having chemo and selective radiation treatments periodically for the foreseeable future.

**Rosa Nuñez** (good friend of the Vargas family) - still having serious long-term painful health problems.

**Jessica Fowler** (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - facing severe personal problems.

**Terri Jones** - pray that she'll come to feel better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

**Dale Epperley** - awaiting first a new prosthesis cushion, and then a new prosthesis, that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

**Gerald Molina** - seeking ongoing medical help for spinal stenosis.

**Sharon Honoré** (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

**Mallvenia Dean** (Billy Dean's mother, in South Haven, Mississippi) - doing much better at home following recent hospitalization for bacterial pneumonia.

**Fairie Roig** - sustained a minor jaw injury from a recent fall.

**Clara Leonard** - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

**Bobby Leonard** - awaiting test results from his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

**Butch Acker** - suffering from fluid retention.

**Kaitlen Perkins** (Kate McDonald's daughter) - has just moved to Conroe, Texas, as she seeks teacher certification and employment in that state.

**Devon Nelson** (Roig's grandson) - enlisted in the U.S. Army last month and is in basic training at Fort Benning, GA. He has been visiting home for the Christmas holiday.

**Jesse & Shirley Fowler** - travelling in north Mississippi and visiting relatives.

**Pray for all who are travelling.**

**Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.**

**Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.**

**Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.**

**Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!**

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***The Old Testament Narratives:  
Their Proper Use***

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

***Principles for Interpreting Narratives***

***Some Final Cautions (continued)***

There are six common errors of interpretation that people commit in looking for answers from parts of the Bible. While all of these apply to narratives, they are not limited to them.

1. *Allegorizing.* Instead of concentrating on the clear meaning, people relegate the text to merely reflecting another meaning beyond the text. There are allegorical portions of Scripture (e.g., Ezekiel 23 or parts of Revelation) but none of the scriptural allegories are simple narrative.

2. *Decontextualizing.* This happens when readers ignore the full historical and literary contexts and concentrate on small units only. If you decontextualize enough, you can make almost any part of Scripture say anything you want it to.

3. *Selectivity.* This is analogous to decontextualizing. It involves picking and choosing specific words and phrases to concentrate on, ignoring the others, and ignoring the overall sweep of the passage being studied. Instead of balancing the parts and the whole, it ignores some of the parts and the whole entirely.

4. *False Combination.* This approach combines elements from here and there in a passage and makes a point out of their combination, even though the elements themselves are not directly connected in the passage itself. Here is an extreme example to illustrate this all-too-common error, taken from Psalm 23. Some have concluded that one's real enemies are in the church rather than outside the church because in David says that he will dwell in God's house forever, and that God

has prepared him a table in the presence of his enemies. (The enemies must therefore be in God's house along with David, or else he could not be in their presence.)

5. *Redefinition.* When the plain meaning of the text leaves people cold, producing no immediate spiritual delight or saying something they do not want to hear, they are often tempted to redefine it to mean something else. For example, they take Jesus' words,

***“Woe to you who are rich” and “Woe to you when all people speak well of you”*** (Luke 6:24, 26) and redefine them from their plain meaning to “Woe to you who love money so much you have renounced your faith in God” and “Woe to you who have become atheists in order to have cheap praise from worldly infidels.” That is, these sayings are redefined in such a way that they are narrow enough no longer to be a threat to the people doing the redefinition.

*(to be continued)*

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***Our Leaders!***

***Elders***

**Dwight Jones  
Courtney Cheri  
Gerald Molina**

***Preacher***

**Dan Schillinger**

***Deacons***

**Jesse Fowler  
James Richardson  
Hector Urbina**

***Our Services***

<b><i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i></b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b><i>Sunday Morning Worship</i></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b><i>Sunday Evening Worship</i></b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
<b><i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i></b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>