

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

**994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016**

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June 21, 2015

A Dad's Greatest Gift

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding.

—Proverbs 4:1

Dad, is it possible you've gotten overly committed, so involved in your work or some away-from-home project or hobby that it is draining your time and energy with your family? I understand, believe me, I do....

Instead of challenging fathers to give of themselves, our cultural system encourages them to give the stuff their increased salaries can buy — a better education, a membership at the club, material possessions, nicer homes, extra cars.... But what about dad himself? And that priceless apprenticeship learned in his presence?... It's gotten lost in the shuffle....

C'mon, dads, let's lead a revolt!... Let's refuse to take our cues from the system any longer. Let's start saying no to more and more of the things that pull us farther and farther away from the ones who need us the most. Let's remember that the greatest earthly gifts we can provide are our presence and influence while we live and a magnificent memory of our lives once we're gone.

- taken from Charles R. Swindoll, *Wisdom for the Way: Wise Words for Busy People* (Nashville, Tenn.: J. Countryman, 2001), 191.

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Today's Sermon

a.m. "Perfect Like Dad"

Matthew 5:48

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning message*

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.

F.A.T.H.E.R.S.

"F" aithful.

"A" lways there.

"T" rustworthy.

"H" onoring.

"E" ver-loving.

"R" ighteous.

"S" upportive.

**“REMEMBER IN PRAYER
&
ENCOURAGE”**



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

All the flooding victims, and relief workers, throughout Texas.

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

Steve Lapinto family - baby Anthony is home but faces several future surgeries.

Zach Steele - blessed with news that he will receive a long-awaited bone marrow transplant, and that he is qualified to have the procedure done as an outpatient. He began the process on June 1, and currently has no complications. His physician is very optimistic about his prognosis, and the family remains cautiously optimistic. Continue praying for his recovery.

Cecilia McDonald (Kate’s mom, in Pleasanton, Texas) - has a failing heart. Kate and her sisters have just made new arrangements to provide for her long term car in her home.

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

Esther Vargas (Robert’s mother, in Costa Rica) - doing better from a recent eye problem.

Ken Cheri (Courtney’s brother) - healing well following successful hip replacement surgery last Monday at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans.

Shirley Fowler - trying to recover from a stomach virus.

Shirley Ervin - on new medication for pleurisy and slowly recovering at home.

Gerald Molina - suffering from multi-faceted lower back pain.

Margaret Schillinger - experiencing some delayed-reaction pain and stiffness following a slight fall that she experienced a few weeks ago.

Edward Greene (Eddie’s father, in Georgia) - recently hospitalized with internal bleeding from an unknown source.

Jace Roig (newborn son of Colton Roig) - entering our world last Tuesday, weighing 3 lbs., 8 oz. His full name is Colton Jase Levi Roig. Despite his uncertain prospects for survival, at last word he seems to be holding his own. He will be in the NICU at Ochsner-Baptist Hospital in New Orleans for quite some time. His mother, Angel, is doing well.

Bill Tansil - most pressing health issue now is pain from arthritis in his back and shoulders.

Phyllis Tansil - has not received substantial pain relief in her lower back despite recent therapies.

Urbina Family - thanksgiving that all of them are now recovered from a debilitating bacterial sinus infection.

Family of Greg Bryant - bereaved in the recent passing of Greg’s father, **Irvin Bryant Sr.**, and Greg’s brother, **Irvin Bryant Jr.** In addition Anita Bryant’s sister, **Sharon Honoré**, a member at the Crowder Blvd. church, has advanced breast cancer.

Tod Grabert - may have to have hardware surgery in his lower back redone.

Deborah Taylor (Evan’s mom) - trying to recover from a tree falling through the ceiling in a room in their residence.

Donald Boudreaux (Joyce LeBlanc’s brother-in-law, of the Barataria area) - tests reveal a small diminishing of his cancer in the area of the kidney ureters.

Kimberly Carter - recovering from an injured knee.

Joyce Carter - waiting to see if she needs to receive further injection treatments in her left eye.

Maria Aurelia Alsaro (Marisol’s mother, in Costa Rica) - afflicted with kidney problems.

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 EPISTLES: LEARNING TO THINK CONTEXTUALLY

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

The New Testament epistles can appear to be so easy to interpret. After all, who needs special help to understand that “*all have sinned*” (Romans 3:23), that “*the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23), and that “*by grace you have been saved, through faith*” (Ephesians 2:8), or the imperatives “*Walk in the Spirit*” (Galatians 5:16) and “*live a life of love*” (Ephesians 5:2, NIV)?

On the other hand, the “ease” of interpreting the epistles can be quite deceptive. This is especially so at the level of *applying what we read to our own situation today* (hermeneutics). One might try leading a group of Christians through 1 Corinthians, for example, and see how many are the difficulties. “How is Paul’s opinion (7:25) to be taken as God’s word?” some will ask, especially when they personally dislike some of the implications of that opinion. And the questions continue. What is the point of chapters 12-14, if one does not believe that miraculous gifts are valid for the Twenty First Century?

Some general words are in order about all the epistles, that is, all the New Testament except the four Gospels, Acts, and Revelation. First, it is necessary to note that the epistles themselves are *not* a homogeneous lot. For the sake of convenience, we can distinguish “real letters” from “formal epistles.” Although we cannot neatly reduce all the letters of the New Testament to one or other of these categories, the distinction is nevertheless a valid one. *Real letters* are non-literary, that is, they were at first not written for the public and posterity, but were intended for the person or persons to whom they were addressed. In

contrast to the letter, the *formal epistle* is an artistic literary form or a species of literature that was intended for the public. As examples of these respective types, we note that Philemon and Romans differ from one another not only in content but also in that one is far more personal than the other. And in contrast to any of Paul’s letters, 2 Peter and 1 John are far more like epistles.

The validity of this distinction may be seen by noting the form of ancient letters. Just as there is a standard form to our letters (date, salutation, body, close, and signature), so there was for theirs. Thousands of ancient Greek letters have been found, and most of them have a form exactly like those in the New Testament (cf. the letter of the council in Acts 15:23-29). The form consists of six parts:

1. name of the writer (e.g., *Paul*)
2. name of the recipient (e.g., *to the church of God in Corinth*)
3. greeting (e.g., *Grace and peace to you from God our Father . . .*)
4. prayer wish or thanksgiving (e.g., *I thank my God always concerning you . . .*)
5. body
6. formal greeting and farewell (e.g., *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you*)

The one variable element in this form is number 4, which in most of the ancient letters takes the form of a prayer wish (almost exactly like 3 John 2), or else is missing altogether (as in Galatians, 1 Timothy, Titus), although at times one finds a thanksgiving and prayer (as often in Paul’s letters). In three of the New Testament epistles this thanksgiving turns into a doxology (2 Corinthians, Ephesians, 1 Peter; cf. Revelation 1:5, 6).

It will be noted that the New Testament epistles that lack either formal elements 1-3 or 6 are those that fail to be true letters, although they are partially like epistles in form. Hebrews, for example, which has been described as three parts tract and one part letter, was indeed sent to a specific group of people, as 10:32-34 and 13:1-25 make clear. Note especially the letter form of 13:22-25. Yet chapters 1-10 are little like a letter and are in fact an eloquent sermon in which the argument as to Christ’s total superiority to all that

has preceded is interspersed with urgent words of exhortation that the readers hold fast their faith in Christ (2:1-4, 3:7-19, 5:11-6:20, 10:19-25). Indeed, the author himself calls it his “*word of exhortation*” (13:22).

First John is similar in some ways, except that it has none of the formal elements of a letter. Nonetheless, it was clearly written for a specific group of people (see e.g., 2:7; 12-14, 19, 26) and looks very much like the body of a letter with all the formal elements shorn off. The point is, it is not simply a tract for the church at large.

(to be continued)



Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

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