

# **“And Ye Visited Me”**

By Dale D. Robins

***“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.” –  
Matt. 25:35-36***

Visiting and ministering to others is noted by the Lord as an important activity that affects our chances of going to Heaven. Just sitting in the same building two or three times a week is not what this passage envisions. The Lord is wanting His children to draw closer to one another, AND He wants us to let our light shine before all men by such activities so that He is glorified (Matt. 5:16). Peter said, *“Use hospitality one to another without grudging”* (1 Pet. 4:9). It is almost impossible to *“bear ye one another’s burdens”* (Gal. 6:2) if we never get to know one another well enough to see what those burdens are. Also, personally doing good to those who are outside the church has influence.

We live in a busy time, and visiting is not as acceptable as in past generations. In years gone by, we frequently had “drop in company” who arrived unannounced, and we enjoyed time together. No one had a nervous breakdown over it. Meals were pieced together from whatever was in the pantry, but the joy was in just being together. A cup of coffee or a glass of tea set the stage for a great visit. Nowadays, we are so busy that “drop in company” is a major inconvenience. We have schedules to keep and have grown extremely obsessed with wanting the house to be in PERFECT order before others enter the door. We have shut ourselves off even from fellow Christians.

I try to visit as much as I can, but I still feel woefully inadequate. Other obligations too frequently jam the schedule. However, we must put forth the effort to do better. I know that is one of my goals for this year. We make announcements every service regarding those who are sick and shut-in. Families are often mentioned from our community that are having struggles of all sorts. These announcements are made to *“let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works”* (Heb. 10:24). The social response to the needs of others cannot be organized and orchestrated. It must come from the heart of converted Christians who LIVE TO SERVE. Many of us remember “the way it used to be” and we see with sadness the distance that is growing among Christians even of the same congregation. I grew up with potlucks, hayrides, roasting hot dogs around a campfire, bowling parties, volleyball & basketball games, horseshoe matches, badminton, and organized outings of all sorts that were spontaneously arranged by members who wanted to nurture closeness amongst the membership. We didn’t have cell phones to occupy our every minute. There is a dire need to rekindle some of these “old-fashioned” practices for it very well may determine the fate of some souls (Matt. 25:31-46).