



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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February 8, 2011

Being Without An Alternative

Mike King



We have the scary privilege of making choices. It is nice to have this freedom, but frightening to think of the alternatives to making right choices. We must choose to be for or against Christ. Jesus warned, *“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathers not with me scatters abroad”* (Mt. 12:30). The choice is to go with Christ or travel the opposite direction. Are we prepared for the consequences of going away from Christ? There are three facts we should consider in facing this determination:

1. There is *no available substitute* for Christ. Peter expressed it succinctly when asking the Lord, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life”* (Jn. 6:68). If we choose to eliminate Christ, what other option or substitute do we have? Man has tried repeatedly to exempt Christ, but his life always ends in futility.

2. It is *unneedful* to look for an alternative to Christ. If there is no hope or fulfillment to be found besides Christ, or that Christ should seem inadequate, darkness pervades our future. It is only when one meets Christ that he becomes as certain as His disciples of old who were willing to give their lives for Him and His cause and to say, *“Thou hast the words of eternal life”!* Jesus can be judged on the basis of His words, His works, and on the basis of His personal worthiness. We therefore who have committed ourselves to Him must develop the intent to grow into His likeness and carry out His plans in our lives.

3. Any alternative to Christ should be considered *unbearable* for *“He that is not with me is against me”* (Mt. 12:30). His “sheep” scatter, having no place to go upon abandoning Him. They become like *“sheep without a shepherd,”* always going, but never arriving. Societal needs can only be met by the healing “balm of Gilead.” All other needs originate from being alienated from the Savior. Someone remarked that “the sheep was not lost because it was caught in the bush, but because it was separated from the Shepherd.” A failure to follow Christ, to have a part in the solution of human need, or be a part of the problem of our world is to be against Christ. *Gilbert L. Guffin* wrote, “This is neutrality that involves complicity (support or participation), and such complicity is sin.” The Christ for whom no substitute is available and no alternative is needful, becomes the Christ for whom no other choice is bearable.

WOULD YOU BE MISSED?

After completing many years as a journalist, Arthur Brisbane was offered six months of paid vacation time by William Randolph Hearst, the publisher of San Francisco Examiner. Brisbane refused to accept the kind offer because of two reasons. He said, "If I quit writing my newspaper column for six months, it might affect the circulation of the newspaper. The second reason is that it might **not** affect circulation of the newspaper."

Mr. Brisbane's answer was profound. In view of his answer, let's ask ourselves, "If I dropped out of sight for six months and did absolutely nothing for the Lord, would I be missed?" Would the Lord's work suffer or would there be no difference whatsoever? As members of the Lord's church, we each have a responsibility in doing the Lord's work and building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 11-16; cf. 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12). We cannot hire someone else to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord (Galatians 6:4-5; cf. Romans 2:6; 1 Corinthians 3:8). We are individually accountable to God for what we do with the time He has blessed us with. Let us hear the inspired writer, Paul, as he wrote to the Ephesians brethren, "*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:15-16- ESV).

Brethren, let us resolve from this day forward, that we will become more involved in the Lord's work, "*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds*" (Hebrews 10:24-NIV). God has so richly blessed us with time, talent, vision, and financial means. Let's be willing to put these gifts to work for the Lord and His cause, "*while it is yet day: the night cometh, when no man can work*" (John 9:4).

~Mike Riley

VISITATION TEAMS

Team 1: February-March

Bill & Karen Botts*
Greg & Kim Clayton*
Richard & Kathy Jennings*
Mike & Sheila King*
Paul & Marie Ormon
Troy & Novene Robertson*
Lonnie & Nicki Weaver*

Team 3: June-July

Andy & Sharon Clemmer
Janet Drummond
Janice & Deborah Griffin
Ray & Pat Kennedy
Gary & Linda Turner

* On All Teams

Team 2: April-May

Jennie Brown
Harold & Deloris Crowe
Grace Lyon
Sue & Bobby Marques
Brad & April Pounders
Harold Russell
Steve & Lana Todd

Team 4: August-September

Bill & Karen Botts
Greg & Kim Clayton
Richard & Kathy Jennings
Mike & Sheila King
Troy & Novene Robertson
Lonnie & Nicki Weaver

Attention: Visitation Team 1, You will meet after services Sunday night, Feb. 13th, at McAlister's.

YOUTH NEWS

- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held on February 13th, at the Zion Rest Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:20.
- Boys Lads 2 Leaders Speech will meet Sunday, Feb. 13th, at 4:30pm.
- There are no Bible Bowls scheduled for the month of February.

PRAYER LIST

Lindi Holloway, 2 month old great granddaughter of *J.L. Eaton* will have heart surgery @ LeBonheur today.

Richard Adams' grandmother, is not doing well at this time.

Pat Reed, is having problems with diabetes.

Bill King, brother of *Mike King* will begin another round of chemo treatments on Feb. 14th.

Margaret Bailey, mother of *Paige Young* is at home under hospice care and remains about the same.

Della Carmon, sister of *Riley Nelson* is having health problems.

Continual Prayer

Maxine McCarley, Wadie Lepard, Eleta Grimmett, Diane Jackson, Allen Kelly, Robert Hancock, Hugh Collins, Donna Haynes, Shane Crotts, Bill King, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

SAGE ADVICE

Suffering from truth decay?

Brush up on your Bible



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 09.....Marie Beard

February 09.....Raymond Vest

February 15.....Greg Clayton

February 17.....April Pounders

February 19.....Barbara Crotts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 12.....Mike & Sheila King

February 14.....Andy & Sharon Clemmer

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to *Joe Owen* and family in the death of his mother **Faye Owen** who passed away Mon. morning. Visitation will be tonight (Tue.) from 5-8 at United Funeral Home in New Albany. Funeral services will be Wed. at 11am at Bethel Methodist Church north of Hickory Flat.

We express our sympathy to the family of **Jeanne Perkins** from the Iuka area who passed away Sunday. She was a friend of *Victoria Botts*.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY

Our Friends and Family Day is planned for Sun. Feb. 27th. Please begin inviting your friends and family members to join us on that day. We want to have a large crowd that day. There will be a potluck meal following morning worship and an evening service at 1:30pm.

YOUTH INTERN

Several young men will be trying out for the Summer Youth Intern position over the next few weeks. This Sun., Feb. 13th, Carter Hoover from FHU will be with us. He will teach the teenage class as well as bring the am message. Other young men trying out will be, Andrew Shelton Feb. 20th, Andy Brown on March 6th, and Cooper Groger on March 13th. All are from FHU.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	100
Sunday A.M	120
Sunday P.M	95
Wednesday	95
Contribution	\$3,131.25
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	J.L. Eaton
A.M. Prayer.....	Ray Kennedy
Closing Prayer.....	Jason Jennings
P.M. Prayer.....	Harold Crowe
Closing.....	Daniel Drummond
Wed. 2/16.....	Phillip Young
Wed. 2/16.....	Bill Lyon
Usher & Lock.....	Andy Clemmer
Greeters.....	G & K Clayton



PANTRY ITEM:
Peanut Butter

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School	9:30
Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Worship	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts	316-2422
Greg Clayton	252-9762
Roger Clayton	534-5240
Andy Clemmer.....	816-5887
Harold Russell.....	534-4648
Randy Wall.....	316-9255

MINISTER

Mike King.....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office.....	534-4649

WHICH ARE YOU?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented that
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied
To say you "just belong?"

There's quite a program scheduled
That I'm sure you've heard about,
And we'll appreciate it if you, too,
Will come and help us out.

So let's be up and doing—
Now's the time to start:
Don't be "just a member,"
But take an active part.

Think this over, member,
You know right from wrong;
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?

~ anonymous

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