



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

February 23, 2010

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT — THE WORD OF GOD

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

The apostle Paul vividly describes the Christian's armor: *“Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6: 13-17). It is God's inspired, infallible, inerrant Word that we want to consider in this study. The Word of God is important and essential to one who desires to go to Heaven. Without a complete and sufficient guide, man is doomed to find his way to Heaven. God's faithful prophet, Jeremiah, said, *“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). The Holy Scriptures are such a guide or roadmap. The apostle Paul says, *“Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work”* (2 Timothy 3: 16-17). Jesus Christ is our example (1 Peter 2:21), and He effectively used the “sword of the Spirit” when tempted by the devil. Satan wanted Christ to demonstrate His power by turning stones into bread, but the Lord rightly answered, *“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4). Keep in mind that the Lord's answer is a long established principle! Long ago Moses stated, *“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Jehovah doth man live”* (Deuteronomy 8: 3). *Mark it down well—the sword of the Spirit will not fail today!*

While it is true that man must have bread in order to survive, it is equally true that “bread alone” indicates that one is dead while he lives! Jesus was extremely popular with the masses after feeding the five thousand (Matthew 13), but when He refused to be a mere “bread Messiah” the number of followers dwindled considerably. Those today who refuse to supply man with his “felt needs” while feeding him spiritual bread will also grow smaller in number. The faithful, however, will stand where Jesus stood and say, “For the bread of God is that which cometh down out of heaven, and giveth life unto the world” (John 6:33).

It is not that the Lord is not conscious of our physical needs. He is! But He also knows that man's greatest problem is not physical starvation or poverty — man's greatest problem is sin. In fact, the more material things some folks have, the greater the probability they will forsake following the Word of God. The Lord's statement in Matthew 16:26 must not be forgotten: *“For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?”* There is something far more important and precious than the “bread of the world” which is here today and gone tomorrow.

Let us now reflect again on the statement Jesus made in Matthew 4:4: *“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* (Emp MLW). Many people in this world believe some of what Jesus teaches in the Holy Scriptures. Most people readily admit, however, that they do not necessarily believe all that the Bible teaches. Please make special note of “everyword” as recorded in Matthew 4:4. Jesus did not teach that man will live by some words, most words, or a few words, by *“every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

The Bible is not a “pick and choose book” whereby one can accept (continued pg 2)

(continued from page 1) ... one verse of Scripture and reject another verse of Scripture. Listen to the Lord as He says, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48). Again, Christ declares, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”* (Luke 6:46)? Christ is not the ruler of the one who adamantly refuses to do what the Lord says one must do to be His follower.

It will not be a tomahawk, a Colt .45, a cruise missile, or a nuclear warhead that gets us to Heaven. If Heaven is to be the home of our soul it will be because we were familiar with and effectively used the “sword of the Spirit” every day of our journey through this foreign land. May we hunger after “spiritual bread” and remember that the only citizenship that matters is located in Heaven (Philippians 3:21).

—Marvin L. Weir, www.gospelpreceptor.com

NEVER AGAIN

One Sunday I was entertained in a farm home of a member of a rural church. I was impressed by the intelligence and unusually good behavior of their only child, a little four year old boy. Then I discovered one reason for the child’s charm. The mother was at the sink, washing the intricate parts of the cream separator when the little boy came to her with a magazine. “Mother,” he asked, “what is this man in the picture doing?” To my surprise she dried her hands, sat down on a chair and taking the boy in her lap she spent the minutes answering his questions.

After the child had left I commented on her having interrupted her chores to answer the boy’s questions, saying, “Most mothers wouldn’t have bothered.” “I expect to be washing cream separators for the rest of my life,” she told me, “but never again will my son ask me that question.”

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Pro. 29:15).

JESUS’ POSSESSIONS

In the lifetime of Jesus we do not hear Him speak of “my house,” “my land,” “my farm,” “my books,” “my business,” or “my money.” We do however, hear Him speak of “my Father” (Matthew 10:33), “my friends” (John 15:14), “my disciples” (John 15:8), “my church” (Matthew 16:18), “my name” (Matthew 18:20), “my words” (Mark 8:38), “my sheep” (John 10:27), and “my joy” (John 17 :13). It is significant that Jesus thought more of spiritual possessions than of material ones.

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YOUTH NEWS

- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be March 14th, at the Zion Rest congregation. The van will leave at 5:20PM.
- Thanks so much to Greg & Kim Clayton and Jason & Amy Jennings for hosting this month’s Youth Devo. We appreciate you!!
- Congratulations to the Antioch youth for taking first place in this month’s Senior Bible Bowl. Next month’s host congregation will be the Nettleton Church of Christ on March 28th.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Janet Drummond, fell and broke both bones in her ankle. She is to have surgery on her ankle this week.

Helen DePriest, is home and recovering from surgery. She and Bill have also had a stomach virus.

J. D. & Sue Stroud, are both improving

Mary Montgomery, will be having blood work done this week.

Bobby Montgomery, is waiting on test results.

Bobby Marques' mother, is in an Atlanta hospital. The family was called in over the weekend, but she has improved some.

Teresa Clark, received a good report from a biopsy that was done last week.

Jennie Brown, fell this past week and hurt her back. She is doing better.

Many of our members are suffering from different viruses at this time.

Continual Prayer List

Jeanne Perkins, Shane Hutton, Sue Collins, Donald Burke, Justin Forsythe, Diane Bowlin, Bell Cross, Terry Young, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Raymond & Amy Vest, Jean Drummond

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joyce McNutt; Corrine Hall; Willie Jackson; Dessie Lee Allred; Mattie Golden, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen & Anna Davis

Military List:

David Wilhite-Navy-Florida Barry Wilhite-Marine-Navy -Virginia, Jimmie Stutts-Air Force-California, Tiffany Erwin- Army-Fort Campbell, KY; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan; Jamie Vansandt, Anchorage, AK; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan

BIRTHDAYS

February 25.....*Carlisle Smithey*
February 28..... *Brian Carpenter*
March 03.....*Angela Ashmore*
March 05.....*Price Senter*
March 06.....*Bill Lyon*

NEW MINISTER

Our search for a minister has ended. The elders have announced that we will soon be having Mike King serving as our new minister. Mike and his wife Sheila will be moving here from Orange Park, Florida, where they have worked for several years. We all look forward to working with and getting to know the Kings.

MARCH INTO SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will begin our *March Into Sunday School* Sunday morning March 7th. Let's all make an effort to have perfect attendance for our Sunday School classes. As in the past, all children that have perfect attendance will receive a certificate at the end of the month.

MEETINGS

- There will be a deacons meeting this Sunday afternoon at 5PM.
- There will be an elders & deacons meeting Sunday March 7th at 5PM.
- There will be an elders meeting Tuesday night March 9th at 7:00Pm

LOST ITEMS

There have been several pieces of jewelry and other items found recently here at the building. If you have items that are missing please check the table in the foyer or the bulletin board to see if they might be yours.

AREA EVENTS

Teacher Workshop @ the Batesville Church of Christ February 27, 2010 Time: 8: 00 am-noon

Annual **SENIOR ADULT RALLY @ Henderson, TN Church of Christ Saturday, March 27th, 2010**

Six State Gospel Singing, Friday, April 16 from 7:00-10:00 PM @ The church of Christ at Southwind in Memphis, TN

OUR RECORD

Sunday School 101
 Sunday A.M 103
 Sunday P.M..... 92
 Wednesday 87
 Contribution \$2,552.25
 Budget \$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Phillip Young
 A.M. Prayer..... Paul Orman
 Closing Prayer..... Phil Young
 P.M. Prayer... .. Burrell Walton
 Closing Bobby Marques
 Wed. 2/24.....Greg Clayton
 Wed. 2/24.....Ronnie Griggs
 Usher & LockGreg Clayton
 Greeters.....A & S Clemmer

**PANTRY ITEM:
 Canned Meat**

**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 538-0791
 Roger Clayton 534-5240
 Andy Clemmer 816-5887
 Harold Russell 534-4648
 Randy Wall 538-6038

Minister

Office 534-4649

SPECIAL BIBLE MOTHERS

Mothers of famous persons are not always recognized as they should be. Can you unscramble their names and match them with their well-known children?

MOTHERS

CHILDREN

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Bethalize _____ (Luke 1: 13) | Esau and Jacob |
| 2. Vee _____ (Genesis 4: 1,2) | Eunice |
| 3. Nuicee _____ (2 Timothy 1: 2,5) | Jesus |
| 4. Soil _____ (2 Timothy 1:5) | Obed |
| 5. Beekhar _____ (Genesis 25: 20-26) | John the Baptist |
| 6. Debojech _____ (Exodus 6:20) | Cain and Able |
| 7. Charle _____ (Genesis 21: 1-3) | Timothy |
| 8. Haras _____ (Genesis 21: 1-3) | Moses and Aaron |
| 9. Thur _____ (Ruth 4:13, 17) | Isaac |
| 10. Army _____ (Matthew 1:20, 21) | Joseph |

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