



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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Sometimes He Roars Quietly

Mike King



Peter warns that Christians should *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (I Pet. 5:8). This is indeed a valuable warning for all who desire to evade his grasp. Be it understood that we can be disillusioned thinking that the devil presents himself as obvious as a noisy lion. Paul spoke of false prophets who infiltrated the early church *“transforming themselves into apostles of Christ”* (II Cor. 11:13-14). Satan is a skilled chameleon, adjusting his colors to blend into society. He, by this tactic, deceives the hearts of the simple and sincere! He has been accused of “playing the crowd” during the time of Job to gain approval and ensnare souls: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them (Job 1:6). The devil mixed and mingled among the “upper-crust of society,” proving to be no less dangerous there!

Satan can even be found in worship services. He never ceases to work on your mind to prevent you from praying sincerely, distracting you so that you will not sing *“with the spirit, and with the understanding also;”* and cause you to *“draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me”* (Mt. 15:8-9). He is there at the Lord’s Table and when the contribution is taken, whispering words of dissuasion. Our worship can become vain and empty when the devil is allowed to rule in our hearts.

Satan works through the lusts of the flesh as stated by Paul: *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Gal. 5:19-21a).

The solution for overcoming Satan is: *“Whom resist steadfast in the faith”* (I Pet. 5:9). James said to *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (Jas. 4:7). Satan’s grip on us can be released only when we obey the Lord and are willing to relinquish our passion for his wares!

LOVE, DAD

Having looked in the tearful eyes of parents whose children have abandoned the Faith, I have learned there are a million miles between our children “going through the motions” in reference to their spiritual lives versus our children possessing hearts that dictate their actions. In this column, I plan to share with you what I hope to instill in the hearts of my children and those whom I love.

I recently was having a conversation with a kind Christian mother who shared with me that her family was being pulled in too many directions. She commented that she often felt overwhelmed, and felt like all she did as a parent was take her children from one activity to the next. I asked the mom what all her family was involved in and she began to rattle off a long list; “Well, we have basketball practice two nights a week and then games on Saturday. Then, my oldest has band practice after school usually two days each week. My daughter wanted to play soccer this year, and so she’s on a team that practices every Thursday and then games are either Monday evening or Saturday. We normally have 1-2 youth events each month, normally for each age group, and...” And on and on it went. I was tired just listening to this exhausted mom.

Sometimes my mouth engages before my brain and I find myself saying something that might not come out the way I intended. I asked this Christian mother, “Just curiously, what activities are the kids involved in that don’t center around themselves?” She stopped, looked at me and asked, “What do you mean?” Well, like visiting the sick, singing at the nursing home, visiting with shut-ins, visiting children’s homes, helping with disaster relief, doing kind deeds for people who aren’t expecting it” I replied. She laughed and said, “You’re kidding, right? I am already running nonstop. How could I squeeze even more activities into our hectic schedules?”

I wish this above scenario were an isolated event. But the reality is far too many Christian families are exhausting themselves by trying to take advantage of every opportunity the world has to offer. Parents feel guilty if their child is not signed up for several different sports or extracurricular activities each year. The bottom line is Satan has done a tremendous job keeping Christians busy in the secular world, to the neglect of our Christian duty—and our pulpits remain silent on it. After all, we don’t want to cause any ripples and convict parents to alter their lifestyles.

Here’s what I intend to teach my children regarding prioritizing their time.

I know what I’m about to tell you won’t be popular with many. The Bible does not command you to play on a sports team or play in the band. It also does not command you to be involved in every extracurricular activity that come down the pike. But it does speak clearly about things like visiting the sick, caring for the widows and orphans, and teaching those who are lost (Matt. 25:31-46; James 1:27; Matt. 28:16-20).

Now please hear what I am not saying. I am not saying those activities are in-and-of-themselves wrong. Your mom and I both enjoyed participating in some of those very things as we were growing up. But the key is prioritizing your time—making sure that your Christian walk is not hindered by too many secular activities. In other words, your Christian life should never take a backseat. Before you make the decision to become a Christian, you must count the cost (Lk. 14:25-34). One of those “costs” is that you prioritize your time different from the world. However, I guarantee if you will prioritize your life the way God commands, your entire life will be richly blessed—far beyond anything a ball game could ever do.

In James 1:27 we learn that pure religion is to care for orphans and look after widows. That’s not just a verse we memorize. It is a call to action. In Matt. 25: 31-40 Jesus points out that it is those who feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, welcome in strangers, give the naked clothing, and visit prisoners that will hear the words, “*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*” (vs. 34). Notice he never mentioned any of the activities that many young people are preoccupied with.

Your mom and I are trying to rear you to visit the sick and shut-ins. We have taken you to funerals since you were little so that you can “*weep with those who weep*” (Rom. 12:15). As you know there have been occasions where we have said “No,” to certain organized activities. That was not because we don’t love you. But rather just the opposite. We love you so much that we don’t want Satan disrupting our family life and our process of training you to be Christian warriors.

Take a few minutes and think about how you spend your time. Is it all focused on you or are you honestly seeking to do His will. Spend some time with the sick and shut-ins. While you are supposed to be making them feel better, it will be you who leaves feeling better. Remember, life is not all about you. It’s all about **Him**.

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For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



PRAYER LIST

Lyndon Beard, father of *Dalton Beard* is back at home after suffering a stroke this past week.

Nicki Weaver is suffering with blood pressure problems.

Sympathy: We express our deepest sympathy to *Joe Reed* and family in the death of **Pat Reed**. *Ms. Pat* passed away Monday night, Oct. 13th. We do not have arrangements at this time.

We express sympathy to *Eleta Grimmitt* in the death of her brother **Troy Wilbanks** who passed away Oct. 8th. Funeral services were held in Greenville, Ms, Oct. 13th.

Continue to remember:

Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Charlene Coker, Barbara Davis, Mabel Erwin, Mary Butler, Roger Clayton, Paul Carruth, John Popson, Nancy Petrowski, Justin Forsyth, Judy Ward, Bobbie Nunnally, J. J. Harris, Glen Jumper, Eulene Hooper, Hudson Grisham, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Victor Ashmore, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Betty Lang, (Rehab) Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Jennie Frohn

Military List:

Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud



HAYRIDE/CAMPOUT

A Fall Hayride/Cookout/ Campout will be held at the Walls' Lake Friday evening Oct. 24th. If you plan to attend please sign the list on the table in the foyer.



I've Learned...

A trouble shared is a trouble halved.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



October 16. Jodi Parks
October 18. Rex Bell
October 22. Preston Garrett
October 27. Mark Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 19. Justin & Rebecca Dewberry
October 27. Jason & Amy Jennings



CHICKEN FEST RESCHEDULED



Due to bad weather this past week-end the Men's Annual Chicken Fest was postponed until Sunday night Oct 19th, following the evening services. It will still be held at *Phil Young's* barn. Men, remember to bring your lawn chair.

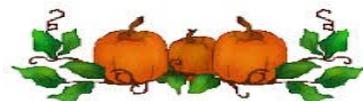
MISSION TRIP

We will be collecting items for several children's homes in Haiti again this year. *Mike and Sheila Kings'* daughter *Cristi Baxley* will be traveling with others from the Beltline congregation in Decatur, AL for a mission trip later this year. We have been asked to supply 150, 24 count Crayola crayons, any coloring books, 90 individual wrapped match box cars, and 5 soccer balls. A container will be placed in the foyer for these items. The date to bring these items has been extended until Nov. 9th.



PINE VALE'S FALL FOOD DRIVE

Please remember the Fall Food Drive will continue until Oct. 19th. Our congregation has been asked to help by providing; toothbrushes, light bulbs— mainly 40w and 60w and some 100w, chili seasoning, and pancake syrup. There is a container in the foyer for these items.



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

MINISTER

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

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson534-3491

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Brad Pounders.....316-7931
 Harold Russell..... 507-1180
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Tyler Weaver
 A.M. Prayer.....Gary Turner
 Closing Prayer..Lonnie Weaver
 P.M. PrayerGreg Clayton
 ClosingDillon Clayton
 Wed.10/22.....Jason Jennings
 Wed.10/22.....Mark Jennings
 Usher & Lock ...Harold Russell
 Greeter.....R & K Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109
 Sunday A.M..... 126
 Sunday P.M.....72
 Wednesday.....115
 Contribution.....\$3,381.50
 Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM
 Canned Tomatoes

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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What was the writer of the letter asking of Philemon?
 _____ Phlm. 1:17
2. What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus?
 _____ Jn. 1:29 
3. What miracle had Jesus performed when he said, "It is I; be not afraid"?
 _____ Jn. 6: 19-20
4. Why shouldn't we give anyone the title of "Father"?
 _____ Matt. 23:9
5. Who does Jesus say are the two most important people to love?
 _____ Luke 10:27
6. How does James say we should "wait for the coming of the Lord"?
 _____ Jam. 5:7
7. Three of David's mighty men risked their lives against the Philistines to get him a drink of water from where?

 2 Sam. 23:15-16
8. To what object does James compare to the tongue?

 James 3:4
9. Which prophet anointed David as King? _____ I Sam. 16:13
10. In Zechariah, the prophet has a vision of a man riding a red horse and standing under what kind of tree? _____ Zec. 1:8