

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

October 15, 2013

Don't Be Afraid – Possess the Land

Mike King



We know the story well of the ten spies that came back with a negative report. Joshua and Caleb believed in the power of God. When Joshua became successor to Moses, his desire was to trust in God and possess the land (Jos. 1). The following are some suggestions as to how we too can “possess the land.”

God told them to simply “*Go over and take the land*” (vs. 2-3). He further stated, “*I give you the land.*” When God makes a promise, it is as good as done! God provides for us by grace, but we receive His bounty by faith. Go after it if it is something God can in good conscience supply, otherwise, we better forget it!

He promised, “*None shall be able to stand*” (vs. 5). Giants and walled cities meant nothing to God. What appears to be an obstacle to us will not faze God. The question that must be pondered is, “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” (Rom. 8:31).

God reassured His people that “*I will not fail or forsake you*” (vs. 5). Can you think of any other legitimate promise that Israel needed? What other promise do we need? (Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20).

They were instructed to “*Be strong and courageous*” (vs. 6). This could only be obtainable by remembering God’s ability to enable them to do so. In similar manner, we today can be tenacious toward sin and coping with life when tapping God’s great power (Heb. 13:6; Eph. 6:10).

The taking of the land could only be accomplished when willing to “*Do everything according to the word*” (vs. 7). God promised to bless them if they stayed with His word. They were told to meditate on it day and night and be careful to do its teaching (vs. 8). We as well will prosper and have success when we stay with the teaching (2 Jn. 9-11)!

Finally, they were told, “*Don't be afraid*” (vs. 9). God will go before you. He used hornets, plagues, and even people like the harlot Rahab. The only thing that stopped them was when sin was allowed to enter the camp (e.g., Achan). When they sat down on the job, they had reasons to be fearful for God withdrew from them. Hear the key words of James: “*submit...resist...flee...draw...cleanse...purify...humble...and He shall lift you up*” (4:7-9). We may need to make a move in God’s direction!

A Personal Work Challenge

We often talk about growing the church but sometimes little is done to actively do so. We often feel as though our work is done when we lead by example, invite a neighbor to church services, or do a good deed from time-to-time.

Now, all of the above are important and certainly our responsibilities as Christians. Yet, here are some ideas to take it a step further:

1. As you're leading by example turn your actions into words. We've heard it said, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day." That may be true with respect to some things, but how is my daily Christian living going to shed light on, or answer the question, "what must I do to be saved" (Acts 2:36-38)?

2. Turn an invite into a commitment to come. I love to invite folks to our services. Sometimes they come and sometimes they don't. How often do you invite with the line, "come to church with me" but fail to give any specifics. I mean, why not say, "hey friend, this Lord's Day we're studying from Matthew and we'll be talking about the popular topic of 'judging.' I would love for you and your family to join my family and after services, let's have lunch together." Then give them the time of service and follow up on Saturday with a call that says "I can't wait for you to visit with us this Lord's Day, and am looking forward to a good lunch together." You might just be surprised by those you come in contact with and that they will actually join you on the Lord's Day. Our quarterly "pest control guy" showed up Sunday after doing basically as described above. Folks, if you don't invite, they won't come.

3. Turn your good deed into an activity for the Lord and His church. The church is full of folks doing good deeds all the time. I think we sometimes feel that if folks aren't part of a particular church program then they're not involved in doing good works. I don't buy that for a minute. The more I visit with folks one-on-one, the more I find that people are serving in different ways. Yet imagine it, what if our good deeds had a reference point. I mean, what if we did good deeds for folks and then let them know why we care, and serve. Just the other day, I went to one of my neighbors, a new grandma who lives alone, and put together a baby bed for her so that her grand baby would have a place to sleep when he comes to grandma's house. The next day I went to the mailbox and there was a card along with a \$20 bill thanking me for helping her out. I immediately called her to say that her gift wasn't necessary and I helped her because that's what neighbors do. What I should have said is, "Nancy, it was my pleasure. After all, that's what Christians do." What I said was okay, but the focus was on me and being a good neighbor. The other way ultimately turns it back to Jesus as the reason for the good deed.

Otis Gatewood once wrote, "If He as the Saviour of the world takes a personal interest in all our affairs, cannot we learn the lesson that we as Christians can best help Him to save the world by being personal . . . [workers]?"

Each area of service mentioned above is in essence a form of personal work. What will you do this week to work for Jesus?

~copied

A Beautiful Web

Once upon a time. Old Man Spider built a beautiful web in an old house. He kept it clean and shiny so that flies would patronize it. The minute he got a customer, he would make a quick meal of it and was very careful to clean up afterward so that other flies would not get suspicious.

One day Fairly Intelligent Fly came buzzing by the clean spider web. Old man spider called out, "Come in and sit."

But Fairly intelligent Fly replied. "No, sir. I don't see other flies in your house. and I'm not going in alone!"

Right about then Fairly Intelligent Fly saw a large crowd of flies dancing around on a piece of brown paper below. He was delighted and prepared to join the crowd. Just before he landed, Big Bee zoomed by. calling out, "Don't land there, stupid! That's fly-paper!"

But Fairly Intelligent Fly shouted back, "Don't be silly. Those flies are dancing down there! Everybody's doing it. That many flies can't be wrong!" And he landed permanently!

Some of us want to be with the crowd so badly that we won't listen to God's Word or good advice. When are we going to learn that just because "everybody's doing it" doesn't mean that it is the right thing or the safe thing to do?

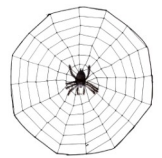
A young boy asked his father one day, "Dad. Your generation didn't have as much trouble with AIDS and other sex related diseases and problems when you were my age, did you?" His father replied that they didn't. The son was perplexed as to what had caused such a terrible problem. He finally asked, "Well! what kind of protection did you use to prevent it?"

The father simply answered, "A wedding ring."

The Bible "gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness " We need to study and take advantage of the Book's wisdom. Sin, much like flypaper has its inevitable doom. Romans 6:23 says, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* "

Watch out for the webs and flypaper in life!!

~ Tim Woodward





PRAYER LIST

Denise Littlejohn, friend of *Shelby Carpenter*, has numerous tumors on her spine. It is stage 4 cancer. She has a 9 year old and a newborn baby. Please pray for her.

Justin Forsyth, neighbor of *Sue Stroud* is at MD Anderson Hospital undergoing chemo treatments.

Harold Crowe is now at home recovering. Home Health Services will come three times a week to help with his therapy.

Nancy Petrowski will go to Vanderbilt, Oct. 22nd, for a bone marrow test.

Our Sympathy: We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Lisa Norris** of Oxford, who passed away Thursday Oct. 10th at the age of 49. Funeral services were held Sat. in Oxford, MS.

We extend our sympathy to **Adam Miller** and family in the death of his father, who was killed in an truck accident over the weekend. *Adam* is the youth minister for the Mayfield congregation.

Continual Prayer :

Ricky Adams, Frank & Caroline Mills, Farrah Godwin, Bill DePriest, Donna Haynes, Steve Stokes, Martha Collins, Ken Joines, Polly Sago, Kelly Fryar, Ruth Ann Stroud, J.V. Davis, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Norman Brown, Terry Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn

Military List:

David & Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



October 18..... Rex Bell
October 27..... Mark Jennings
October 28..... Erin Wall
October 29..... Phil Young
October 31..... Steve Todd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 18..... Justin & Rebecca Dewberry
October 27..... Jason & Amy Jennings



REJOICE!

Ben McCullough was baptized into Christ Sunday morning Oct.13th, following services, by his dad. We commend him on his decision to become a Christian and pray for him as he begins his new life in Christ. *Ben* is the son of *Jason* and *Brandi McCullough*.

FALL LECTURES CONTINUE

Bro. Donnie DeBord of the Ripley congregation will be our guest speaker Wednesday night, Oct. 16th. There will be a meal at 5:45 at the fellowship building. Everyone is invited to bring a dish and enjoy a period of fellowship and greet the *DeBord* family. The adult II class will be in charge of the fellowship.

WEDDING



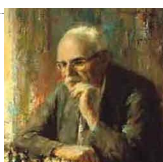
You are invited to the wedding ceremony of *Doctor Shelli Isabel Coleman* and *Mr. William Paul Dodd* Saturday Oct. 19th, at 5:00pm, at 952 County Road 115, New Albany, MS. A reception will follow at the same location.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Wed. night lecture Oct. 16th at 7:00pm with *Donnie DeBord* of Ripley, MS speaking.
- Sr. Bible Bowl Sun. Oct. 20th, at the East Main congregation in Tupelo.
- 3rd Sun. night fellowship Oct. 20th, following evening services. Please bring soup or finger foods and desserts. The adult I class is in charge.
- Singing night, Wed. night Oct. 23rd, at 7:00pm
- ‘Trunk or Treat’ at 6:15pm, Oct. 30th.

Wise Thoughts

PRAYER: Key of the Day,
Lock of the Night



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 Jennings534-6671
 Troy Robertson534-3491

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton..... 538-8195
 Brad Pounders.....316-7931
 Harold Russell 507-1180
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Dillon Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Jerry Gibson
 Closing Prayer....David Clayton
 P.M. Prayer.....Jason Jennings
 Closing.....Mark Jennings
 Wed.10/16.....Alvin Parks
 Wed.10/16.....Bobby Marques
 Usher & Lock....Lonnie Weaver
 Greeter.....A & S Clemmer

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....113
 Sunday A.M.....141
 Sunday P.M.....131
 Wednesday.....121
 Contribution.....\$3,779.60
 Budget.....\$3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM

Canned Chicken

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728 Kernels of Corn

By: Neil Richey

I was reading a book on personal work recently and the author told a story about the power of one person making a difference. He said that one day, while eating corn on the cob he decided he would count every single kernel of corn. When he was finished, he had counted 374 kernels. He must have never been taught not to play with his food. :-)

The author went on to observe how that this ear of corn came off of a stalk that may have produced other ears of corn. Let's say just two in total. If the other ear of corn had the same number of kernels as this one, then that would be a total of 748 kernels of corn. While impressive, what's even more amazing is that those 748 kernels of corn came from a single kernel planted, watered, and tended to until it reached maturity and was ready to be harvested.

Personal work is a lot like that. You may convert only one person over the course of your life. It could be that you feel your life is a failure because you didn't "turn out the numbers" that someone else did. You may not baptize thousands like the late Marshall Keeble. However, you may convert one soul that will convert 748.

Jesus said to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mk. 16:15-16). The world before you to teach begins with "one." It's time to get busy.

