



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

October 4, 2011

Are You Convinced?

Mike King



There are many things that change daily in our society that impact the membership of the body of Christ. Some of the changes we can make without compromising truth or standing in violation of God's expectations of us. There are some things that must never change as long as the earth stands or until the Lord Himself returns. In a 1995 issue of Gospel Minutes, *Dillard Thurman*, listed some definites that can never be altered:

God's Word Is Still Powerful – Paul was *“not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation”* (Rom. 1:16). It remains *“living, active, and sharper than a two edged sword”* (Heb. 4:12). The Bible is more than a rule book, but a message of good news and salvation. It has power then and still does today. If there is any weakness today, it would be the lack of empowerment in those who have been commissioned to declare it, or that it is not allowed to *“dwell richly”* so as to change lives. The *“implanted word...is still able to save your souls”* (Jas. 1:21).

God's Word Still Moves People – The Bible is *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6:17) and is able to pierce *“as far as the division of soul and spirit...”* (Heb. 4:12). The preaching of Jesus drew large numbers and caused interest in the kingdom (Mt. 9:35). The world is confused and uncertain, but can have bearing through the good news of salvation. It is the ONLY power to change the hearts of men. We hear that preaching and teaching the word is no longer effective or brings results. Could it be that we have convinced ourselves that this is the case to relieve ourselves of the responsibility?

God Can Change People – To the Corinthians, Paul gave a list of damnable behaviors, but uttered words of hope because they had been sanctified by Jesus despite of the fact that *“...of such were some you”* (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Believers Have The Victory – *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor. 15:57). He further indicated that Christians could *“do all things through Him who strengthens me”* (Phil. 4:13) and that no one can be against us (Rom. 8:31).

We Are Forgiven – This truth is the heart of the “Gospel” or “Good News.” Not only are we forgiven initially, but the blood of Christ continues to wash away “all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7). In the context of discussing the gospel having *“saved us and called us with a holy calling,”* Paul said, *“...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to him until that Day”* (2 Tim. 1:12b).

Someone is Always Watching the Race

How do others characterize us? What do friends, coworkers, classmates, and neighbors think and say about us? How do we act or behave when away from our church family? While we cannot always control what others think or say, we can strive daily to walk according to the will of God

In I Corinthians 9 and Hebrews 12, we find references to Christianity being equated to running a race. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to put aside all things that hinder us and run with endurance, focusing on Jesus. Paul encourages us in Philippians 3:12-14 to press for the prize that awaits the faithful. Paul was determined not to become complacent; he pressed forward and kept his sights on heaven.

Unfortunately, there will be things that weigh us down and cause us to stumble. We may even be tempted to compromise and forgo what God expects of us. God can help us when things weigh us down or when we are tempted to give in to the world (I Corinthians 10:13).

God loved us so much that He sacrificed His Son for us (Romans 5:6-8). Christ died leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). When we are buried with Christ through baptism into His death, we can be raised to walk a new life. As Christians, we are able to pray to God through Jesus for help to run the race before us and seek help when we have trouble staying the course.

People must be able to see Christ in us in order that we may be effective. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).

I was recently asked by my manager to pray at a company breakfast. I knew most everyone in attendance and appreciated the opportunity, but I did not know initially what I was going to say. The backgrounds of those in attendance are diverse, so I kept the prayer simple but meaningful - thanking God for the food among other petitions, but most importantly I thanked God for Christ our Savior. After breakfast, a coworker thanked me for the prayer and said something, which encouraged me. He said one can never fully know where people are in their personal relationship with God in such a setting, but someday one of those same people may face some type of trial or hardship and will know there is someone at work they can come to for help and encouragement.

There are many people watching us. Let us all press forward and run the race with endurance, letting our light shine with hope that many others may come to Christ.

~ Terry Clark, Karns Bulletin

AREA EVENTS.

- **Area Wide Youth Devo** will be Sunday night, Oct. 9th at the East Main Church of Christ in Tupelo.
- **Skyline Church of Christ** in Tupelo will have a Gospel Meeting Oct. 9th-13th. The guest speaker will be *Windell Fikes*. Times: Sun.7:30pm & Mon-Wed night at 7:00pm.
- **Fall Gospel Meeting**, hosted by the **Ashland** and **South Ashland Churches of Christ** will be Oct. 9th-12th. They will meet Mon-Wed. night at 7pm. They will also host a Youth Rally Sat. Oct 8th from 10:00am till 2:00pm.
- **Annual Spaghetti Supper** sponsored by the **Freed-Hardeman Associates** will be held October 21, at the Tippah County Fairgrounds in Ripley, Ms. Tickets are \$7.00 and all proceeds go to Freed-Hardeman University for student scholarships. Check the bulletin board for more details.
- **Mayfield Church of Christ** invites you to their **Gospel Meeting** Oct. 9th-12th.with *B.J. Clarke* as the guest speaker. Times: Sun.7:30pm & Mon.-Wed at 7pm.
- **Parenting Seminar** to be held October 29th at the Batesville Church of Christ with *Dr. Sam Jones* of Freed-Hardeman University as the guest speaker. Check the bulletin board for more details.



PRAYER LIST

J. D. Stroud, is in room 354 of the local hospital following surgery for a broken hip. He had two pins put in his hip.

Janice Cobb, is in room 321 of the Oxford hospital recovering from (quintuple) by-pass surgery.

J.L. Eaton, will have back surgery Wed. in Memphis.

Earnestine McKinney, mother of *Perry Jones*, remains in a Memphis hospital, but is improving.

Addie McClure, four month old cousin of Christy Wall is in the Le Bonheur hospital.

Lucille Gibson, will have knee surgery Oct. 10th, in Tupelo.

Brad Pounders, is scheduled for tests this week.

Bobby Marques, is having complications from his recent cataract surgery.

Betty Young, is suffering from inner ear.

Continual Prayer

Ruth Brown, John Tompkins, Lisa Mitchell, Ron Garner, Dick Young, Eleta Grimmett, Cindy Sprouse, Randy Wall, Daphne Fitzpatrick, Tony Cross, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

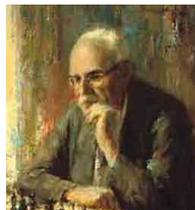
Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden & Pauline Smith, Ruby Shouse

Military List:

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

“I BELIEVE”

.... That either you control your attitude or it controls you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 12.....Greg Harrison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 09.....Terry & Betty Young

October 13.....Olen & Teresa Clark

October 14.....Perrin & Jean Drummond

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to *Deloris Crowe* in the death of her brother, *Billy Joe Bray*, who passed away Wednesday, September 28th. Funeral services were held Friday, in Pontotoc.

THANK YOU

Thanks for all your prayers, calls, cards, expressions of concern, visits to the funeral home and every kindness shown us during the illness and death of my brother *Billy Joe Bray*. You are a wonderful family.

Thanks so much.

Love,

Deloris & Harold Crowe



FALL LECTURES

Our “Fall Lectures” will begin this Wednesday night, October 5th, and continue each Wednesday night through October. Our guest speaker this week will be *Danny Rogers* from Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc. There will be a meal each Wednesday evening at 5:45. The adult I class is in charge this week. Everyone is invited to bring a dish and enjoy the meal and a period of fellowship before services. The dates and speakers for our lectures will be: Oct. 12th, *King McCarver* from the Beech Hill Church of Christ; Oct. 19th, *Adam Miller* from the Mayfield Church of Christ and October 26th, *Randy Collum* from the Ashland Church of Christ.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	105
Sunday A M	117
Sunday P.M.	96
Wednesday	107
Contribution	\$3,965.03
Budget.....	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Daniel Drummond
A.M. Prayer.....	Jerry Gibson
Closing Prayer.....	Greg Clayton
P.M. Prayer.....	Roger Clayton
Closing	Matt Jennings
Wed 10/12.....	Mike King
Wed. 10/12.....	Bobby Marques
Usher & Loc.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	A & S Clemmer



PANTRY ITEM

Pasta meals

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
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

MINISTER

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

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library.

I am always- and above all- the Truth.

To the pilgrim, I am a strong staff.

To the one who sits in darkness, I am the light.

To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick in sin, I am healing strength and forgiveness.

To those who are tossed about by storms of life,

I am a steadfast anchor.

To those who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

I am the Bible, God's wonderful gift to mankind.



"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Volume 40

THE INFORMER (USPS 5581-500)
Church of Christ
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
New Albany, Mississippi 38652
(662)534-4649

Periodical
Postage Paid
New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
148, New Albany, MS 38652