



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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November 10, 2015

Seeking A Level of Involvement

Mike King



It is natural and appropriate for conscientious Christians to contemplate the level of involvement they are to assume in the Lord's church. The existentialist states, "By being involved in an event, and by exercising decision one really exists." True existence that fulfills does not come just by making a decision. There is no existence when one plays a role or little games with life, but for one to achieve maximum quality of life, through sensitivity and freedom, one may choose life on a higher level. The choice that Jesus made to save humanity was far more than mere assent; it was a very costly way of life. The decision to follow Christ must not be allowed to become one among many decisions, but a choice, a way of life that impacts all other decisions to be made.

The high-level road travelers do so because of self-denial. Some things must be denied in order to embrace others. *Ruskin* said, "If you read this, you cannot read that." *Wesley P. Ford* in his article "On Being Involved" noted that "Jesus had power to do with; he also had power to do without." As a result He practiced and taught, "*If any man come after Me, let him deny himself*" (Mt. 16:24, RSV). Consider three reasons for being involved on a commitment level:

1. We are constantly surrounded by temptation to commit sin and settle for less than ideal. Confrontation to sin is necessary for us to be good. Once a man said of Socrates, "There is one experience I have in the presence of this man alone such as nobody would expect of me, and that is to be made to feel ashamed; he alone can make me feel it...As soon as I turn from his company I fall victim to the favors of the crowd." We work harder and reach for a higher standard when in the presence of and made to feel ashamed by their presence. Walking with Jesus does just that.

2. Involvement gives us a sense of direction and worthy purpose for our life. The goals and focus of the Christian determine our circumstances and insists on urgency. When driven by great purpose, odds are overcome and seemingly insurmountable situations are pushed aside.

3. The impact of our involvement on others must be taken into consideration. The standards by which children of God live haunt our society and goad others to a higher standard of thinking and behavior. Do not underestimate the principles of, "*Love your enemies*" and "*Blessed are the meek*" in terms of bettering our world.

And It Came To Pass....

An older man once sat in on a class in a Bible College. That day the professor asked his students to share a verse that meant a great deal to them. The students were eager to oblige. They offered many great verses, rich with theological implications. When the class finished, the professor asked the visiting man if he would like to share his favorite verse. He agreed and said, "My favorite verses in the Bible are the ones that begin with the phrase, 'and it came to pass'." A few snickers could be heard among the prideful students so the elderly man added an additional comment.

He said, "Young men, allow me to explain why I answered as I did. You see, when I was 32, our firstborn son was killed by a drunk driver. My wife and I were devastated. We didn't know how we would go on, but we did. At the age of 45, our daughter came home on a break from college, sat her mother and me down, and proceeded to tell us why she no longer believed in God. She told us that God was merely an invention of man intended to be a crutch for the psychologically weak, and that she wanted no part of it. We found this to be more painful than the death of our son. At the age of 55, I lost my job. Everyone wanted to hire someone younger than me. Consequently we lost our home, and for six months we were forced to live in our car. Then at the age of 63, we discovered that my wife had cancer. For three years we fought that cancer as hard as we could, but my wife eventually died three years later. So you see young men, the events that have taken place in my life have caused me to appreciate and love the verses that begin with the words, 'and it came to pass,' for they are a reminder to me that the horrible circumstances in which we sometimes find ourselves don't 'come to stay,' they 'come to pass'."

After the man finished, you could have heard a pin drop. The class was no longer snickering because they learned a valuable lesson. You'll have many things 'came to pass,' in your life, but thank God they won't come to stay!'

~ MercEmail Devotional, Steve Higginbotham, 11/2/15

Thanksgiving Thoughts

This month we will all pause and observe a day our nation sets aside as a holiday. It is "Thanksgiving Day." Hopefully all Americans will pause to remember just how grateful they should be for the privileges and blessings afforded us. It is doubtful that will happen because of the decided turn toward secular humanism our government and society has taken.

It hasn't always been that way. In 1863, a noble statesman from Kentucky wrote the following Thanksgiving Proclamation. Abraham Lincoln wrote:

It is the duty of nations as well as of man to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November, a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens.

— A. Lincoln, 1863

What a pity that men who guide our government and men who greatly influence the morality of our society today do not have the sentiments expressed by one of the greatest leaders this nation ever produced.

Let us be thankful every day, and especially this season of the year. When we gather as families on Thanksgiving Day, let us be truly thankful for the benevolence God has lavishly poured out on us. — *DRS, Bulletin Fodder*

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Glen Hill father of *Steve Hill* is suffering from cancer.

B. A. Stubblefield, father of *Terry Stubblefield* had surgery Fri., Nov. 6th to remove a urinary bladder tumor that was cancerous. He will return to his doctor Nov. 10th, for a follow-up.

Jimmy Snyder is recovering from surgery.

Continue to Remember:

David Crossings, Joyce Clayton, Roy Crow, Vernon Davis, Jackie Dodd, John Elliott, Kevin Flowers, Preeble Foster, Sonny Gay, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Davie Johnson, Judy Kirk, Earnestine McKinney, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Brooks Russell, Carl Smith, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Chris Windham, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Perrin Drummond, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Mayna Senter, Miriam Styers, Laura Mae Harris

Military List:

Tiffany Erwin, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley

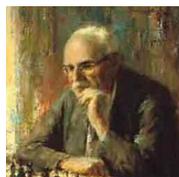


What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10: 13-17).
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

I've Learned...

Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.
(Will Rogers)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 13..... Joe Reed
November 17..... Josh George
November 18..... Linda Griggs
November 18..... Linda Palmer
November 19..... Darrell Crow
November 19..... Linda Turner



3RD SUNDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

There will be a fellowship meal Sun. night, Nov. 15th, following services. You are asked to bring soup, finger foods, and desserts. The adult 2 class will be in charge of the fellowship building.



NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

- Care Team 4 will meet Nov. 13th, at 6:00pm at the home of *Shane & Barbara Crotts*.
- Jr. Bible Bowl will compete at the Antioch Church of Christ Nov. 15th.
- 3rd Sunday night fellowship Nov.15th. Bring soup, finger foods, and desserts. Adult II class in charge of the fellowship building.
- 5th Sunday Services Nov. 29th. Meal and 1:15 service. Elders to conduct the afternoon service.

God's Child

Her neck stretches to see. Is he listening? Is he behaving himself? It was such a short time ago when she would complain "I did not hear a word the preacher spoke" but now her thoughts are distracted for another reason. Now her children are not beside her—they are "too big." Her arms ache for a child squirming in her arms all through church. She stands to sing, and her body sways as if rocking a child. Where did the years go? Was it worth all those frustrating Sunday mornings? Sunday nights? Wednesday night? Oh, there he is. Look at him...he's singing. His eyes are attentive. She feels so much joy. Look! There's my child. No. He's God's child!



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 Robertson316-3163

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.....Caleb Jennings
 A.M. Prayer.....Roger Clayton
 Closing Prayer.....Tyler Weaver
 P.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
 ClosingDan Cobb
 Wed.11/18.....Phillip Young
 Wed.11/18.....Hunter Jennings
 Usher & Lock ..Lonnie Weaver
 Greeter.....T & N Robertson

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109
 Sunday A.M.....123
 Sunday P. M.....253
 Wednesday.....110
 Contribution.....\$3,817.00
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Green Beans

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Glad To Go To Church

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." —
 Psalm 122:1*

Some people enjoy going to church. They sing joyfully, listen intently, and feel enriched as they leave. But others seem bored. I remember a man who always slept through my sermons. I blamed myself. But one Sunday I noticed that he was sleeping before I started preaching. He may not have received much spiritual uplift from the services, but he always left refreshed!



Why do some people, like the writer of Psalm 122, look forward to a worship experience, while others say, "Oh, what a weariness"? (Mal. 1:13). It may be the way the service is conducted, but that isn't usually the problem. Some people get bored with a service that is conducted the same way every Sunday, yet others take a real interest and find enjoyment in it. Some people are uncomfortable in a service that is unstructured and highly emotional while others thoroughly enjoy that kind of meeting. These different responses stem from different attitudes. Some people just go to church because it is the thing to do. Others prepare themselves for worship and go expecting a spiritual blessing.

Preparations for Sunday worship should take place Monday through Saturday. If we are regularly reading God's Word, praying, and serving Christ, we will be glad when it's time to go to church.

*One day a week we worship God
 With others who believe,
 But how we live throughout the week
 Affects what we'll receive.*