



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

November 17, 2015

Life's Momentous Questions

Mike King



The business world and psychiatry have used the “Socratic Method” for getting to the bottom of self-awareness. Socrates felt that the answering of some primary questions enabled a man to be successful in life: “Who am I?”, “From where did I come?”, “What is my life,” and “Where am I going?” James also asked, “*What is your life?*” and proceeded to answer it (Jas. 4:14).

Who am I? The Bible depicts man as having a perishable body. We pass through a metamorphosis of youth, maturity and decay. Peter writes that life is like a flower; it opens in all its beauty, then is suddenly gone (1 Pet. 1:24). The real “I am” part of us is the inner-man or the immortal spirit. We were created in God’s image who is a spirit and there must then be an element of man that is spirit as well (Gen. 1:27). There is *the “hidden man of the heart”* that gives us dominion over all beasts and life beyond the grave (Gen. 1:28).

From where do I come? Moses said that the Lord formed us from the ground and gave us some of His divine nature. God was referred to as the “*Father of spirits,*” for fostering in every human being a dual nature—body and spirit (Heb. 12:9-10).

What is my life? It is temporary as a tent (Isa. 38:12) and illusive as a vapor (Jas. 4:14). David said that life for man is brief, like a sigh (Ps. 90:10). Life is similar to a handbreadth, or very small in comparison to the whole of God’s scheme for man (Ps. 39:5). It too, is an uncertain thing. We are not in a position to boast about tomorrow for we know not what it shall bring (Prov. 27:1). Life is also an irrevocable thing; we cannot call it back after portions or all of it has been spent. It is like “*water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again*” (2 Sam. 14:14).

Where do I go? The philosopher would answer, to the unknown for life hovers between two eternities. The infidel would respond, to the dust, placing man on the level with a mere animal, the Christian can with hope respond, to the Father for the grave is not the end (1 Cor. 15).

Though God is our Creator and Christ is our Savior, we are under obligation to ultimately assume responsibility for the destination of our soul. *William Ernest Henley* expressed it well in *Invictus*. He wrote it from a hospital bed following a leg amputation. “Invictus” means “un-conquered.” It says, “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.” In Christ, our lives remain unconquered by any outside foe!

Dirt Roads

~ Paul Harvey ~

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved. There's not a problem in America today, (crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency), that wouldn't be remedied if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.



People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride, that it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes; but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids, and a dog.

We wouldn't have nearly the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets before they were paved. Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by five barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. And there were no drive-by shootings. Our values were better when our roads were worse.

People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tail-gate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust and burst your windshield with rocks. Dirt roads taught patience.

Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly. You didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail you walked to the mailbox.

What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time—roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and had pony rides on Daddy's shoulders...and you learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody else.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you learned that bad words tasted like soap.

Most paved roads led to trouble. Dirt Roads more likely led to a fishing creek or a swimming hole. At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini.

At the end of a Dirt Road there was always extra springtime income from when city dudes would get stuck; you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road.

You Preach First

The first sermon preached each Sunday is not by the minister, but by you.

You preach a message of good cheer when you say "good morning" to those you meet as you are parking, or in the hallway and classrooms. You preach a message of "welcome!" when you slide over in the pew instead of forcing others to squeeze in front of you. You preach a message of hope and joy when you sing enthusiastically during the service. You preach a message about the power of prayer when you fervently enter into the time of prayer. You preach a message about respect when you listen attentively to the special announcements about church activities. You preach a message of love when you smile, and say "hello" and introduce yourself to visitors. You preach a message about faith when you give your liberal contribution. You preach a message about the importance of the Scriptures when you open your Bible to read along with the preacher.



Many messages are preached before the minister stands up to bring the sermon. If your message is positive and consistent, then the message given from the pulpit will be much better received! ~ via Bulletin Fodder

BIBLE QUESTION:

What profession does Jesus compare himself to spiritually? _____ John 10:14



For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST

 **Linda Griggs** is at home suffering from pneumonia.

Perrin Drummond has been in the local hospital with a kidney infection. He was taken back to New Albany Rehab Center Monday.

Jean Drummond is at home recovering from a fall.

Kenneth Pounders, father of *Brad Pounders*, is in the hospital with complications from a recent gallbladder surgery.

B. A. Stubblefield, father of *Terry Stubblefield*, is at home recovering from bladder surgery. He will be having treatments every 6 weeks.

Ricky Adams, *Richard Adams* dad is having back problems and may be facing surgery.

Mildred Vick, mother of *Melissa Reed*, is in the hospital with pneumonia. **Hershel Vick**, *Melissa's* dad, also has pneumonia but is improving.

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, Glen Hill, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Davie Johnson, Judy Kirk, Earnestine McKinney, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Brooks Russell, 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



I've Learned...

If God is your co-pilot,
swap seats.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 23..... Betty Young
November 25..... Cooper Pounders
November 28..... Jerry Grimmett
November 29..... Sissy Bullock



5TH SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday November 29th, we will have an all day service with a potluck meal following our morning services. Everyone is invited to bring a dish and enjoy a meal and period of fellowship. Our afternoon service will begin at 1:15 and be lead by our elders. The adult II class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building.



CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENINGS

- There will be a Thanksgiving service Wed. night November 25th. All classes will meet in the auditorium at 7:00pm.
- 5th Sunday Services Nov. 29th. Meal and 1:15 service. Elders to conduct the afternoon service.
- Men's Breakfast and Planning session will be held Saturday, Dec. 5th, at 7:00am at the fellowship building.
- Ladies Christmas Brunch will be held Saturday, Dec. 5th, at the home of *Janet Drummond*.
- Care Team 2 will meet at the home of *Richard & Kathy Jennings* Fri. night, Dec. 4th, at 5:30.
- Care Team 1 will meet at the home of *Bobby & Dixie White* Sun., Dec. 6th, following services.
- Care Team 3 will meet at the home of *Jerry & Eleta Grimmett* Sun., Dec. 6th, following morning services.



**Christ Living in Me...
To Be Seen in 2015!**



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.....Matt Jennings
 A.M. Prayer.....Mark Jennings
 Closing Prayer....Dillon Clayton
 P.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams
 ClosingShane Crotts
 Wed.11/25...Daniel Drummond
 Wed.11/25.....Jason Jennings
 Usher & LockGreg Clayton
 Greeter.....G & K Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....117
 Sunday A.M.....137
 Sunday P. M.....114
 Wednesday.....116
 Contribution.....\$4,250.25
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Spaghetti Sauce

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Volume 45

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

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

A Hug

It's wondrous what a hug can do,
 A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
 A hug can say, "I love you so"
 Or, "I hate to see you go."
 A hug is, "Welcome back again!"
 And "Great to see you!" or
 "Where've you been?"

A hug can sooth a child's pain,
 And bring a rainbow after rain.
 The hug! There's just no doubt about it,
 We scarcely could survive without it.

A hug delights and warms and charms.
 It must be why we have arms.
 Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
 Sweet for sisters, even brothers.

And chances are, some favorite aunts
 Love them more than potted plants.
 Kittens crave them, puppies love them,
 Heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier,
 And make the dullest day seem merrier.
 No need to fret about the store of 'em.
 The more you give,
 The more there are of 'em.

So stretch those arms without delay
 And give someone a hug today!

~ author unknown ~

