

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

December 17, 2013

MORE HOLINESS GIVE ME

Mike King



Building a life of spiritual character cannot be accomplished without holiness. The whole objective of man is to learn and embody heavenly traits and characteristics. We are never too young or old to learn holiness. Abraham, nearing ninety years of age, was told by the Lord to “...walk before Me, and be thou perfect” (Gen. 17:1). This injunction was speaking of spiritual purity and sanctification. Moses recorded that the children of Israel should “*be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy*” (Lev. 19:2). Paul told the Romans that they should “*present [their] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*” (Rom. 12:1). Holiness is so important to the Christian that God chose before the foundation of the world for us to “*be holy and without blame [blemish] before Him in love*” (Eph. 1:4).

Holiness is a condition for seeing God. Those who are “*pure in heart...shall see God*” (Matt. 5:8). We are warned that we cannot see God without following peace and holiness (Heb. 12:14). As Christians, we are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit” *and if any man have not the “Spirit of Christ, he is none of His”* (Rom. 8:5, 9). The avenue through which this is made possible is the truth. We are sanctified (purified or made holy) through the truth (Jn. 17:17). The Word of God instructs us in righteousness enabling man to be perfect (complete) and furnished unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Sin and holiness are on opposite poles. It is when we are freed from sin that we become servants of God and “*have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life*” (Rom. 6:1, 2, 22). The pure, holy and sanctified state that has occurred by washing in the blood of Christ must be exhibited in life and conduct. We glorify God and edify mankind by letting our light shine before men (Matt. 5:16). Even our speech is to be “*always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*” (Col. 4:6). Christians should remember at all times that we are to be “*an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in word, in manner of life, in faith and in purity*” (I Tim. 4:12). Holiness is not a one-shot occurrence, but is a life of discipline and separation from passions and worldly enticements that draw us away (Jas. 1:14) from God and pure living.

THE BEST GIFT

It's gift buying season and there are many men who are out there, probably at this very moment, trying to find the perfect present for that special lady. But if you're like me, you've probably made some mistakes in this arena. So, for your funny bone, consider the following that appeared in an old *Reader's Digest*:



- * Don't buy anything that plugs in. Anything that requires electricity is seen as utilitarian.
- * Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in seven thousand that you will get her size right, and your wife will be offended the other 6999 times. "Do I look like a size 16?" she'll say. Too small a size doesn't cut it either: "I haven't worn a size 8 in 20 years!"
- * Avoid all things useful. The new silver polish advertised to save hundreds of hours is not going to win you any brownie points.
- * Don't buy anything that involves weight loss or self-improvement. She'll perceive a six-month membership to a diet center as a suggestion that she's overweight.
- * Don't buy jewelry. The jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want....
- * Finally, don't spend too much. "How do you think we're going to afford that?" she'll ask. But don't spend too little. She won't say anything, but she'll think, "Is that all I'm worth?"

The Bible says that *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones"* (Pro. 17:22), so guys I hope you've enjoyed these tips. Ladies, if your guy does make one of these colossal mistakes, don't be too hard on him. One person said, "A wise lover values not so much the gift of the lover as the love of the giver."

I mentioned at the beginning that this was gift buying season. From a retail standpoint that's true. However, everyday we have the opportunity to share a true gift, one that doesn't cost a dime. It is the gift of self.

Share a kind word, or pay a compliment to your spouse even if undeserved. *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt..."* (Col. 4:6).

Parents, help your children to feel good about who they are and what they mean to your family. *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged"* (Col. 3:21).

Share an invite to church with a total stranger. For example, give your waiter an extra big tip at Sunday lunch and leave a note that says "Next Sunday I want to buy your lunch after you go to church with me." Tell him that you'll be waiting for him at 9:30 Sunday morning and that you're saving a seat for him (Mk. 16:15-16).

The biggest and best gift that you can give is not something that can be purchased, but the best gift is what you share of yourself--your heart, your time, your words, your service.

~ Neil's Daily Devotional Nuggets

YOUTH NEWS

- There will be a Youth Devo following services Sunday morning, Dec. 22 at the fellowship building. The girls are asked to bring desserts and the boys chips. *Dan Cobb* and *Sarah Walker* will be hosting.
- Plans are being made for the youth, or anyone who would like, to go Ice Skating in Tupelo, Sat. Jan. 4th. We will have more details later.
- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held January 12th, at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany on January 19th.
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held January 25th, at the East Main Church of Christ





PRAYER LIST

Grace Lyon is experiencing a lot of problems keeping her blood pressure regulated. She was admitted to the Tupelo Hospital Sunday night, room 3331 for observation.

Gorden Gentry, underwent surgery to remove a kidney that was found to have a mass, Friday, Dec. 13th, at the Tupelo Hospital.



*We express our sympathy to *Patricia Crow* in the death of her aunt, **Clarice Collins** of Iowa. *Ms. Collins* suffered a stroke last week and passed away Sunday afternoon, Dec. 15.

* We also express our sympathy to the family of **Barry Yancey** of the Chapman congregation. *Mr. Yancey* had been on our continual prayer list for quit some time suffering from cancer.

Continual Prayer :

Bill Lyon, Donna Stroup Daniel, Rivers Robertson, Mike Reed, Helen DePriest, Hudson Grisham, Phares Birdwell, Lucille Gibson, Tony Cross, Nancy Petrowski, Denise Littlejohn, Justin Forsyth, Donna Haynes, Steve Stokes, Martha Collins, Polly Sago, Kelly Fryar, J.V. Davis, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Ruth Brown, 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

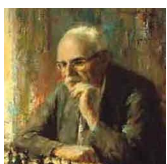
Military List:

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



Wise Thoughts

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



December 20.....Brooke Mann
 December 20.....Callie Smithey
 December 21.....Janet Drummond
 December 22.....Sue Marques
 December 23.....Tony Cross
 December 26.....Chris Smithey
 December 28.....Jenna Carpenter
 December 29.....Dean Dillard
 December 29.....Mable Erwin
 December 30.....Terry Stubblefield

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 26.....Troy & Novene Robertson
 December 30.....Gary & Linda Turner



RESPONCES

* *Jason Jennings* responded to the invitation Wed. night Dec. 11, asking forgiveness and the prayers of the church to be a better Christian, husband, and father. We commend *Jason* on his willingness to live as Christ would have him.

* Sunday, Dec. 15th *Amy Jennings* came forward asking for strength to be the kind of Christian, wife, and mother that she desires to be. *Amy* has a good heart and noble expectations. Prayer that she may reach her desired level of spiritual maturity.



DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

- We will have our regular services Wednesday night Dec. 25th.
- Sun., Dec. 29th ~ 5th Sunday Services/covered dish meal and 1:15pm service. Adult 2 and 3 class will be in charge of set-up and the young adult and adult 1 class will be in charge of clean up.

NO BULLETIN NEXT WEEK

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..... Will Bowlin
A.M. Prayer.....Dalton Beard
Closing Prayer.....Greg Clayton
P.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young
Closing.....Harold Crowe
Wed.12/25.....Phil Young
Wed.12/25.....Olen Clark
Usher & Lock.....Brad Pounders
Greeter.....T & N Robertson

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....119
Sunday A.M.....142
Sunday P.M.....114
Wednesday.....119
Contribution.....\$3,739.00
Budget.....\$3,223.00



PANTRY ITEM

Pantry is Low

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From: The Staff

*Troy, Richard, Mike, Kathy, Betty,
Phillip & Matt*

*Seasons
Greetings*