



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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Decisions Determine Our Destinies

Mike King



The Bible is predominantly a book about people. The histories of many people are to be found from Genesis to Revelation. The events recorded deal primarily with critical moments and choices they made in life. We are all faced with decisions today too. Decisions of the past can improve our choice-making and help us see them as “life and death” concerns (Deut. 30:19).

Abraham chose to obey God and enter into a strange land (Heb. 11:8-9). He was even willing to offer his son Isaac in honor to God (11:17). His name will be remembered for many centuries because of his choosing to exercise a great faith.

Joseph won a respectable position in Potiphar’s household due to his decision-making ability (Gen. 39:9). The first result was prison; then advanced to governor, finally second only to Pharaoh.

The decision of Ruth is always good to remember. She was a young widow and given liberty to return to her people and former gods. She expressed her decision to Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17). Humanity was honored by her decisions. She secured eternal life for herself and became the grandmother of Jesus.

The rich young ruler did not fare so well though admired by many (Mt. 19:16-22). When the Lord placed choices before him, he made a wrong decision (vs. 23-24).

The decisions that we make today still determine destinies. The commitment made by Joshua for him and his family to serve the Lord, needs to be heard more often today (Josh. 24:15). Many have already decided to serve God sooner or later. For many, it results in later or never at all! The story is told of three frogs sitting on the bank; one decides to jump into the stream. How many are left on the bank, two? Wrong! All three remain because he only decided, but he did not jump. Decisions, though good, must be accompanied with action before harvesting positive results. Do not delay like Agrippa and Felix.

The decision to become a Christian, or a better Christian, must not be delayed. In saving others, we save ourselves. It is true that “Procrastination is the thief of time.” We are now in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). “Don’t crucify your today between two thieves – yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision. Make every today what it should be, then every yesterday will be a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.”

Observing No Unfriendliness

Mike Riley

The Christian life boils down to the uncommon expression of common virtues. For example, we would expect that Christians would be friendly. What a difference practicing that virtue would make in our society!

A well-known author says that a person who is likeable and provides others with a sense of joy, happiness, relaxation, or rejuvenation, is more likely to be hired or promoted. He maintains that some companies have actually abolished unfriendliness by incorporating a system using the acronym, I.O.N.U. — “I Observe No Unfriendliness.”

This principle should be practiced by the citizens of Christ’s kingdom. When people are asked what they look for in a church, their number-one response is “friendliness.” Unfortunately, the reality is that the friendliness of some members of the church are as distant as a star and as cold as outer space.

The Lord told ancient Israel that He “loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing” and commanded them to emulate His behavior (Deuteronomy 10:18-19).

Brethren, friendliness is not just a wise business practice, it should be a characteristic of all who follow Christ (John 15:13-14; 1 John 3:16; cf. Prov. 17:17). When we attend a worship service, let’s act in such a way that a visitor will say, “I observe no unfriendliness in this congregation.”

BIBLE QUIZ

- 1.) And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to _____ Proverbs 23:2
- 2.) Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be _____ Proverbs 6:6
- 3.) A word fitly spoken is like _____ Proverbs 25:11
- 4.) A soft answer turned away wrath, but grievous words _____ Proverbs 15:1
- 5.) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____ Proverbs 1:7
- 6.) A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh ashamed is as _____ Proverbs 12:4
- 7.) Hatred stirreth up strifes, but love _____ Proverbs 10:12



25 THINGS YO U 'LL NEED TO KNOW IN ADULTHOOD

1. Don't sweat the small stuff and remember most stuff is small.
2. The most boring word in any language is "I".
3. Nobody is indispensable - especially you.
4. Life is full of surprises. Just say "never" and find out.
5. People are more important than things.
6. Persistence will get you almost anything -- eventually.
7. Nobody can make you happy. Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.
8. There is so much bad in the best of us and so much GOOD in the worst of us that it doesn't behoove any of us to talk about the rest of us.
9. Live by what you trust not by what you fear.
10. Character counts.
11. Family matters.
12. If you wait to have kids until you can afford them, you will probably never will.
13. Eating out with small children is more adventurous than an African safari.
14. Baby kittens don't begin to open their eyes for six days after birth. Men generally take between 25 and 30 years.
15. Television ruins more minds than drugs.
16. Sometime there is more to gain in being wrong than right.
17. Life is so much simpler WHEN you tell the truth.
18. The world would run a lot smoother if more people would practice random acts of kindness.
19. A good joke beats a pill for a lot of ailments.
20. There are no substitutes for fresh air, sunshine and exercise.
21. A smile is the cheapest way to improve your looks even if your teeth are crooked.
22. May you live life so there is standing room only at your funeral.
23. Father always knows best, but sometimes mother knows too.
24. Forgive yourself, your friends and your enemies. You're all only human.
25. If you don't do anything else in life, love someone and let someone love you.

~ Tim Woodard ~

PRAYER LIST



Miriam Styers is in ICU room 243 of the local hospital with pneumonia in both lungs and an irregular heart beat. She is also on oxygen.

Earnestine Dye, mother of Tim Dye, surgery was successful. She is now at home recovering.

Jerry & Lucille Gibson, are slowly improving.

Connie Walton is scheduled to have surgery Dec. 8th, in Corinth.

Gloria Jones, is scheduled for neck surgery Dec. 9th, in Oxford.

Jennie Bell is at home recovering from a broken rib.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Becky Cargile, Wade Chism, Todd Coleman, Liz Collins, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Lana Gann, Jerry Gibson, Jacqueline Golden, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Abby Jones, Judy Kirk, Taylor Kirk, Perry Lepard, Dean Long, Grace Lyon, Earnestine McKinney, Brandy Sandie, Cliff Sanders, Jean Simmons, B.A. Stubblefield, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Chris Windham, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Genice Collett, Wanda DeLoach, Perrin & Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Mary Frances Reid, Claudia Senter, Mayner Senter, Miriam Styers, Ione Wall

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals



WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

The elders have made the decision that our worship services for Christmas Day and New Year's Day will remain as usual.

I've Learned...

To handle yourself use your head, to handle others use your heart.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- December 08. Larry Ashmore
December 08. Deloris Crowe
December 10. Maria Ormon
December 13. Clayton Hill
December 14. Eleta Grimmett

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- December 08. David & Sharon Peeler



QUILT EXHIBIT



There will be a quilt exhibit at the fellowship building Dec. 10th & 11th, from 1-4pm. Everyone is invited to participate. Condition of quilts do not matter, old or new. The "worn" ones just show history. Please let Eleta Grimmett know by Dec. 4th, how many you would like to display. Her # is 662-534-2387 or 347-5977.

CARE GROUPS MEET

- Care group 3 will meet at Craving Catfish in Sherman, Sat. Dec. 10th, at 5:00pm
Care Group 4 will meet Sunday, Dec. 11th, following morning services at the fellowship

MEMORIAL DONATION

A memorial donation has been sent to Pine Vale Children's Home in memory of David Griffin, son of Janice Griffin, who passed away recently. A letter has been sent to the family to let them know of this donation.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

All Christmas gifts for the 4 children we are helping with at Pine Vale Children's Home and those in the community need to be wrapped and brought to the building by Dec. 14th. Please put names on the gifts. Any other monetary gifts need to be turned in as well, by Dec. 14th.

"The family, through God's eyes, as SEEN in 2016!"



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
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Phil Young
 A.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams
 Closing Prayer....Tyler Weaver
 P.M. Prayer.....Harold Russell
 ClosingGreg Clayton
 Wed.12/14.....Perry Jones
 Wed.12/07.....Richard Jennings
 Usher & Lock.....Roger Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....90
 Sunday A.M.....119
 Sunday P. M.....74
 Wednesday.....80
 Contribution.....\$5,230.05
 Budget.....\$4,037.54



PANTRY ITEMS

Pantry Full

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Fessing Up When We Mess Up

Yes, I made up a word. If it gets your attention then it is worth it. For that matter what would it take to get your attention?

Recently a man who died in a tragic accident had an incredibly high alcohol level in his blood which probably contributed to his accident. Another man who has impressed many, confessed to doping to enhance his abilities in athletics.

When we read these stories how do we react? Do we get real self righteous and say, "That wouldn't happen to me?" Or could we see it for what it is? Yes, we live in a crazy mixed up world!

A few weeks ago I mentioned King David and his sins. He did confess them before God. And God forgave him.

So I am thinking of another king who tried to justify what he did and he never did understand he had sinned. I am thinking of King Saul. Read 1 Samuel 13 and 15 and see how sad this man was. Saul never understood the kingdom wasn't about him. He never really came clean and God eventually gave him over to a depraved mind. And God took the kingdom from him.

Why is it so hard to own up to our messes? Why can't we just do like the tax collector and say, "*God have mercy on me, because I am a sinner!*" If you read this account in Luke 18:10-14, you may see yourself. After all, my sins are not nearly as big as the local dope dealer, drunkard, adulterer, etc.

Fessing up, when we mess up is what we all need to do.

~ Keith Bellamy~