



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

December 8, 2015

The Art of Laziness

Mike King



The term “lazy” does not appear in the Bible, but the word “slothful” does, which means the same thing. It is a serious subject which deserves attention and warning.

There was a farmer sitting on his porch when a stranger came by and inquired, “How’s things?” “Tolerable,” was his reply.

He conversed quite openly about the affairs of his life. “Two weeks ago a tornado came along and knocked down all the trees I would have had to chop down for this winter’s firewood. Then last week lightning struck the brush I had planned to burn to clear the fields for planting.” The stranger responded, “That’s remarkable, what are you doing now?” The farmer answered, “Waiting for an earthquake to come along and shake the taters out of the ground.”

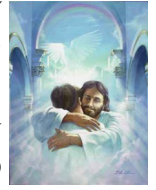
As the tribe of Dan was going against the Zidonians to capture their fair share of the land promise, they received admonition. They were told by their brethren, “*Arise, let us go up against them....be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land*” (Judg. 18:9). Solomon warned that “*The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway*” (Prov. 15:19). Later he mentioned, “*The desire of the lazy man kills him; for his hands refuse to labor*” (Prov. 21:25). There is always a fall-out when laziness or slothfulness is present.

Note in scripture how negative results ensue. “*I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.*” (Prov. 24:30-34). Our vocations and the Lord’s work suffer when we are not energetic and industrious about our duties.

The Christian must behave more responsibly than the lazy. I have worked at jobs where men stood in line to punch their time-card to go home, but late in arriving to go to work. The Hebrew writer captured the gist of the mind of God on the matter, “*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises*” (Heb. 6:11-12). “*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might*” (Ecc. 9:10a)!

Please Come Home!

A few people who will read this have quit attending church services. It is possible that they were once faithful and active members, but for one reason or another they have ceased to attend. They no longer serve the Lord or support the church in any active way.



Perhaps you yourself are one of that number. If so, you probably tell yourself that eventually you will get started back to church - that someday you will renew your commitment to worship and serve the Lord actively. But meanwhile, you remain away from the church and out of touch with God.

To all in this condition, we send a plea from the heart to “Please, come home! Come back to God, to a Savior who loves you, to brothers and sisters in Christ who miss you and care deeply for you!” You need to come back for the following reasons:

Your Condition is a Matter of Grave Concern to God. Jesus pictured a shepherd whose concern for a sheep away from the fold caused him to leave 99 sheep in the wilderness and go out and painstakingly search for the one which was missing (Luke 15:4). This is a picture of God’s concern for those who are away from Him!

You Are Depriving Yourself of Spiritual Health. The failure to worship and serve God result in the shriveling of the soul! Your spiritual nature cannot survive if you do not feed it. Your absence from church diminishes and weakens you!

Your Talents and Abilities Are Being Wasted. Jesus taught that we have all been given the opportunity and ability to serve God in some way (Matt. 25:14-15). So much more good could be done in the world if all would use their talents as God desires. When you fail to do your part as a member of God’s work force, then the cause of Christ suffers. You are needed!

You Are Letting Your Influence Work Against God, the Truth, and the Church. Although you do not intend it to, your example says to all who observe your life that the church is not important and that God may safely be ignored. It is especially tragic that those who read this message in your example are often your own children and grandchildren!

Others Need You and You Need Them. We need the mutual encouragement of one another in living the Christian life. By your absence from church, you deprive others of the encouragement you could give them and you deprive yourself of the strength which they could share with you!

Your Separation from God May Become a Permanent One. Life is uncertain. We have no guarantee of what the future holds. Though you intend to come back to the Lord, you may wait too long or life may end too soon. The emphasis of the Bible is always upon now (2 Cor. 6:2). The future is too uncertain to risk your soul on it!

~ Noel Merideth ~ via Chapman Challenger

Rescued By A Raven

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” -Philippians 4: 19. Many years ago, a German peasant named Dobry lived in a village near Warsaw. Because of unforeseen financial problems, he had not been able to pay his rent and the landlord was threatening to evict him. Dobry pleaded for more time, but the landlord told him that the next day he and his family would be turned out into the snow.

Hearing the church bells chime for evening prayer, Dobry and his loved ones knelt to ask the Lord to supply their needs. After prayer they rose to their feet and sang the words of an old hymn: “Commit thou all thy griefs and ways into His hands.”

As they finished singing, they heard a strange tapping at the window. Dobry opened it and found a raven that his grandfather had tamed many years before. In its beak was a valuable ring. It had been lost that day by the king who was visiting the town. Dobry returned it, and the king rewarded him with enough money to build a house of his own.



God doesn’t always provide in such a dramatic way. But such experiences encourage us. He is alive. He knows our needs. He will provide. If you are God’s child and you’re facing a crisis, remember, the Lord still has His unexpected “ravens of supply” to meet your deepest need.

~copied via Bulletin Fodder

PRAYER LIST



J.T. Gaines, a 10th grade student at Myrtle High School that was seriously injured in a 4-wheeler accident, is out of ICU at Le Bonheur and in a room. They are still waiting on him to wake up, but he is making improvements.

Eudell Wilson, brother of *Gloria Jones* is dealing with prostate cancer.

Deborah Elliott, friend of *Perry & Gloria Jones* is suffering with heart failure.

Suzette Renick, baby sister of *Perry Jones* has blood clots in her lungs.

Larry Cobb is scheduled to have shoulder replacement surgery Dec. 17th, in Memphis.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, 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, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Brooks Russell, B. A. Stubblefield, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Bobby White, 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:

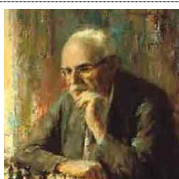
Tiffany Erwin, Derek Bradley

Bible Verse Fill in the Blank

_____ is every one that _____ the _____;
 that _____ in _____.
 Psalm _____:3.

I've Learned...

The fact you are down isn't as important as whether you are satisfied in being there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY




- December 10. Maria Ormon
- December 13. Clayton Hill
- December 14. Eleta Grimmett
- December 20. Callie Smithey
- December 21. Janet Drummond
- December 22. Sue Marques
- December 28. Jenna Carpenter
- December 29. Dean Dillard
- December 29. Mable Erwin
- December 30. Emily Gann
- December 30. Terry Stubblefield

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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



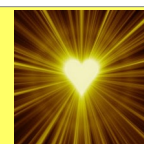
IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to *Tyler and Heather Boyd*, of Murfreesboro, TN, on the birth of a son, **Elijah Nathan Boyd**.  *Elijah* was born Saturday, December 5th at 4:00am. He weighed 8lbs and was 19inches. Proud grandparents are *Troy and Novene Robertson*. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing well.

EVENTS

- Care Team 4 is asked to meet in room 12 Sun. night, Dec. 13th at 5:00.
- Our Holiday Fellowship will be held Sunday night, Dec. 20th, following evening services. You are asked to bring finger foods.
- Our 5th Wed. night singing will be held Dec. 30th, at 7:00pm.
- The Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton invites you to join them for their 3rd Annual New Year's Eve Singing. Singing begins at 8:00pm.

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



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 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.....David Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
 Closing Prayer....Ruston Adams
 P.M. Prayer.....Randy Wall
 ClosingPhillip Young
 Wed.12/16.....Richard Adams
 Wed.12/16.....Shane Crofts
 Usher & Lock ...Harold Russell
 Greeter.....S & L Todd

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....108
 Sunday A.M.....123
 Sunday P. M.....80
 Wednesday.....102
 Contribution.....\$3,837.00
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Soup/Crackers

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As The Year Ends

As the year 2015 rapidly draws to a close, we should remind ourselves once again of this gift of God we call "time." How quickly the year has passed! Time has been described as "a section cut from the great circle of eternity," and "the uncertain boundaries of life on earth." Ben Franklin said, "Doest thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of." Someone else once said, "I have no yesterdays. Time took them all away. Tomorrow may not be, but I have today." Time has great value. Although you may not be paid an hourly wage, you cannot limit the value of time.

2015⁶

If you would burn a \$100 bill, you would be destroying more than the paper and ink of which it consists. You would, in essence, be taking bread from your table, medicine from the sick, and books from the scholar. Likewise, the value of time is not in itself, but in what time offers us– the blessings, privileges, and opportunities of life.

Time is NOW. Not yesterday– all of the yesterdays have passed on, and its opportunities are no more. Tomorrow has not yet come-and it may never be. You are left with only today. This must have been in the apostle Paul's mind when he admonished, "*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil*" (Eph. 5:15-16, NKJV). Time well-spent in the will of God.

~ By: Ronald Bartanen, BulletinGold, 11/15