



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

February 4, 2014

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Mike King



When we pay tribute to those who have served our country and fallen in battle for her cause, we are filled with mixed emotions. We are glad for the sacrifice of so many, but saddened at the same time for their having to do so. There are some spiritual lessons that we can learn from the many years of warfare our country has known. We too battle constantly against Satan's entanglements. Consider the following advice for insuring a successful counter-attack against sin.

A number of years ago, *James Woodall*, dissected Genesis 14:13-16 and discovered three principles for battle. In the text, Lot was taken captive and Abraham came to his rescue. Lot was family and Abraham felt a necessity for caring for his well-being. Today, we fight a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12); we are to war a good warfare (1 Tim. 1:18), and to fight a good fight in order to lay hold upon eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12). Near the end of Paul's life, he declared that he had done just that and that a crown of righteousness had been reserved for him (2 Tim. 4:7). We learn spiritual principles from Abram's physical battle.

Arm Yourself – Abram trained 318 armed servants of his house to make the rescue (Gen. 14:14). We have been given weapons and armor for the conflict against Satan, but we must embrace them (Rom. 13:12; Eph. 6:11). David said to the Philistine giant that “*you come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts*” (1 Sam. 17:45). Our weapons of warfare are not carnal (2 Cor. 10:4). The list of the items of armament can be found in Eph. 6:14-18. We are in a spiritual war and must be armed!

Pursue The Enemy – Abram pursued Lot's enemies to Dan and on to Hobah (Gen. 14:14-15). We may have to step out of our “comfort zone” to battle our enemy! It is easy to attend services only, with regularity, without living the Christian life daily. That makes us vulnerable and under threat. The Devil must be fought in our lives every day! Abram had to leave Ur (Acts 7:2-4), Moses set Pharaoh straight with God's message (Ex. 3:2-4:17), David left the flocks for the battlefield (1 Sam. 17:32-51), and Elijah went to Mt. Carmel to challenge the prophets of Baal (1 Kgs. 18:17-24). We make pursuit by studying the Word, teaching the lost, restoring the erring, being benevolent, and being a Christ-like example.

Bring Back All The Goods – Abram brought back all that had been taken (Gen. 14:16). God has never approved of compromise when involving His commands! He did not with Adam and Eve (Gen. 3), nor with Israel's defeat of Jericho and Achan's looting the spoils of war (Josh. 6 & 7). There was no compromise when Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant to steady it (2 Sam. 6:3-7). Today, we must not compromise worship (Jn. 4:23-24), doctrine (Gal. 1:6-10), or God's plan of salvation (Jn. 10:9-10). There will be no compromises at the judgment (2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 12: 48). Are we ready to do battle?

Addicted to ChapStick

I smile when I think about it. As a matter of fact, I am grinning while I am writing this. I had overheard some of the young people at church talking. No, I was not eavesdropping on their conversation. They were talking loud enough for all around them to hear. One thing they said, though, did make me listen a little closer to what they were saying.



I heard one of them say something about me. They said that I must be addicted to Chapstick. At first I thought what an odd thing to say. I wondered what made them come to such a conclusion. Then I realized, about the only time they see me is when we are at services together. So nearly every time they see me I am putting Chapstick on my mouth. You see, I apply it to my lips before I get up to preach so that it will moisten them and keep those pesky "dry spit" globules, which are disgusting to look at and distracting to say the least, from forming in the corners of my mouth. But addicted to Chapstick? Not hardly.

Such a charge is unfair because the only time I use the stuff is before or after I preach or teach a class. The rest of the week I never apply it. But what those young people were saying made me think about some timely lessons for all of us.

First, all of us must realize that people are watching us -- even in the little things. We must be careful to conduct ourselves properly. Though I do not think I would cause someone else to become a "Chapstick addict," my influence and the power of my example, if erroneously exerted in other areas, might cause one to stumble. The apostle Paul said he would even abstain from lawful things if engaging in them would cause another to stumble so as to fall ([1 Cor. 8:13](#)).

Secondly, we must all be careful not to jump to conclusions when we do not know all the facts. Some people who only see me at worship services, for example, might conclude that I always wear a coat and tie. But those who see me on a day-to-day basis know that is not the case.

We must never make any judgments about others until we know the facts. The Jews during the time of Jesus had done just that in regards to Him. They were ready to arrest and condemn Him early in His ministry. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews who had come to Him by night, was a voice of reason in the council. He asked this august group of scholars, "*Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?*" ([John 7:51](#)). Sadly, there are many, even some who claim to be Christians, who are quick to judge and condemn others without knowing the facts.

Let us all use our influence for good and let us not judge others too quickly.

~ by Gene Taylor

Our Dress In Worship

By Ron Boatwright

Even though worship is not a "dress parade", many times we become sloppy, and revealing in the way we dress for worship. Our clothes do contribute to the emphasis we place on worship to God. This does not mean we have to wear fine and expensive clothes. But the way we dress should be in keeping with the dignity of the occasion.

God tells us in 1 Timothy 2:9-10, "*In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation...which is proper for women professing godliness with good works.*" Modest clothing is the way women who are "professing godliness" dress. Certainly a woman or man whose clothing is not modest is not professing godliness by the way they dress. As Christians we should not dress like the world, with their revealing midriff attire.

A woman who wears clothing that exposes herself to men is contributing to their sin of lust. Our Lord says in Matthew 5:28, "*But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" She becomes guilty of contributing to his sin of adultery, so she also becomes guilty. In our actions as well as the clothing we wear, 1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*"

Some think they have to follow the style and fashion of the world, regardless of how short and revealing or inappropriate clothing gets. But we are told in Romans 12:2, "*And do not be conformed to this world.*" Why? Because this world is going to be lost, and if we conform ourselves to this world we will also be lost with it. We are "*to keep ourselves unspotted from the world*" (James 1:27).

When we worship we are actually in the presence of the Lord. He deserves only our very best. We are told in Romans 12:1, "*That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*". Our dress should show a moderate opinion of our own value. Our dress should be pure, proper, chaste, and decent. It should not call attention to ourselves because it is showy, sloppy or lewd. Let's honor the Lord with the way we dress.



PRAYER LIST

Joel Holley, father of *Kim Clayton* did not suffer a stroke as previously thought. He remains in the Tupelo Hospital having tests to determine the cause of his illness. Please remember him in your prayers.

Eulene Hooper, sister of *Novene Robertson* has been diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing chemo treatments.

Cathy Dye, mother of *Amy Jennings* will have surgery Tuesday, in Florida.

Phyllis Popson, sister of *Sue Stroud* is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Tony Cross, is improving and expects to be released from rehab this week.

Continual Prayer list:

Roger Clayton, Jennie Bell, Grace Anderson, Alicia Dukes, Rivers Robertson, Hudson Grisham, Pat Reed, Nancy Petrowski, Justin Forsyth, Steve Stokes, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, 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



Bible Trivia

Under what kind of tree did Saul tarry at Gibeah?

(a) Pear (b) Cedar (c) Pomegranate (d) Palm

I Samuel 14:2

Wise Thoughts

"I discovered I always have choices and sometimes it's only a choice of attitude."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 09.....Marie Beard
February 15.....Greg Clayton
February 17.....April Pounders
February 19.....Barbara Crotts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 12.....Mike & Sheila King
February 14.....Andy & Sharon Clemmer
February 21.....Price & Claudia Senter



FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY!

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for Friends and Family Day, Sunday, Feb. 23rd. We will have a meal following our morning worship services. Our evening services will be at 1:30. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us. We are looking forward to a great day!

YOUTH NEWS

- Lads to Leaders practice will meet every Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm unless otherwise announced.
- The Area Wide Youth Devo will be held Sun. night Feb. 9th at Church St. in Pontotoc. The van will leave at 5:55.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany again next month, Feb. 16th. The questions are being submitted by the Hwy 15 Pontotoc church of Christ.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held Sunday night Feb. 16th instead of the 23rd. *Brad* and *April Pounders* will be hosting.

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)

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.....Cody Clemmer
A.M. Prayer.....Jason Jennings
Closing Prayer..Dan Drummond
P.M. Prayer.....Harold Russell
Closing.....Burrell Walton
Wed.2/5.....Randy Wall
Wed.2/5.....Ronnie Griggs
Usher & Lock....Harold Russell
Greeter.....L & N Weaver

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....113
Sunday A.M.....145
Sunday P.M..... 98
Wednesday.....108
Contribution.....\$4,321.00
Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM

Soup

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HEAVEN

It's to heaven we owe our allegiance.
It's on heaven that we set our affection.
It's in heaven where we lay up our treasures.
It's for heaven that we are pilgrims.
It's for heaven that we will sacrifice.
It's by heaven that all things are valued.
It's in heaven that we know that God dwells.
It's from heaven that we look for the Savior.
It's from heaven that we receive every good and perfect gift.
It's in heaven that our names are written.

~ Winfred Clark ~



WHEN YOU THINK OF HEAVEN

Think of —
Stepping on shore, and finding it heaven!
Taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand.
Breathing a new air, and finding it celestial air.
Feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality.
Waking up, and finding it home.