



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

March 10, 2015

Three Gates of Gold

Mike King



We are taught by Paul to present our bodies a *“living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God... that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Rom. 12:1,2). The Christian is a beacon of light in a dark world. Jesus taught His followers to let the *“light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father”* (Mt. 5:16).

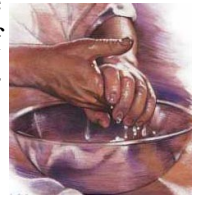
The heart is the seat of all affections, bad and good. It is from the heart that good emanates. Jesus warned the Pharisees by telling them that *“a tree is known by its fruit”* (Mt. 12:33). He quizzed them by saying, *“Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”* (vs. 34-37).

Echoing the sentiments of the Lord, James warned, *“Do not speak evil of one another brethren. He, who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge”* (Jas. 4:11).

Someone has suggested that we pass through three gates of gold when choosing what the heart thinks and what the mouth speaks. The initial gate of gold is: **Is it true?** One of the several things, actually the first that Paul implored the Philippians to think on was *“whatsoever things are true”* (Phil. 4:8). *If is not true, then it has to be a lie and we are fully aware that “all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone”* (Rev. 21:8). The second golden gate, through which we pass, in terms of what we say, is: **Is it kind?** Peter gave instruction to those who had escaped the corruption of the world to give attention to exercising godliness through *“brotherly kindness.”* One version of the scriptures refers to it as *“love of the brethren”* (2 Pet. 1:7). Jesus epitomized kindness through His compassion throughout His ministry. The third golden gate through which we enter every intent and word, as a sieve by which we strain every impurity, is: **Is it needful?** Jesus gave emphasis to not speaking words that are idle or unnecessary, He said, *“But I say unto you that every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment.”* Before speaking, allow your mind and each word to pass through the three golden gates of truth, kindness, and necessary.

Pilate's Wash Bowl

What became of the wash bowl Pilate used? You remember -- the one he called for the "wash his hands of the whole affair" involving Jesus. His weak and cowardly way of avoiding responsibility in the death of Jesus, *"he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it"* (Matt. 27:24).



Have you ever wondered what happened to Pilate's wash bowl? By washing his hands, Pilate thought he could absolve himself of any responsibility for the death of Jesus Christ. It was indeed a stupid and ludicrous gesture on his part -- but he did it, nonetheless.

Judas didn't end up with the bowl. He realized his responsibility in betraying the Lord and took his own life. The apostle Peter didn't have the bowl. When he realized his denial of the Lord he repented and returned to his duty of service to the Lord.

Has the wash bowl been lost forever? I don't think so. It turned up the other day in the hands of a member of the church of which YOU are a member. A person who became a Christian and was added to the Lord's church assumed the duties of a member of the body of Christ. He became part of a living body, not a dead carcass. Remember Peter's description of the church? *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"* (1 Pet. 2:5).

The person we have in mind called for Pilate's wash bowl when he was given the opportunity to do the Lord's will. This person heard that he/she ought to be teaching the word of God (Heb. 5:12) but didn't want the responsibility. This individual "washed his/her hands" of it. Next, this person realized there was a duty to help the weak, the needy, and the discouraged, but decided to let others do that. More hand washing. Repeatedly, when this person realized there was a job to be done for the Lord, the wash bowl was again called for.

Now, it is good to be hygienic and keep your hands clean, especially when it comes to sin. But don't be afraid to have "dirty hands" in the service of the Lord. Be willing to get involved. Be ready to assume responsibility. Actually, all this is summed up in the words of Paul to Titus. Those whom the Lord has redeemed from iniquity are to be *"a peculiar (special) people, zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14).

Get rid of Pilate's wash bowl forever.

Via ~ Bible Fodder

Church Attendance -- Is it Necessary?

We Miss Instruction

When one misses the assembly he not only misses meeting with the Lord, he also misses the receiving of valuable instruction. Since he is not there, he will not be edified with the rest of the saints. (1 Cor. 14:12.) Who among us is so filled with information and wisdom that we have no need for further study or a need to be built up in the faith?

The Christian life is one of constant growth (2 Pet. 1:5-7). One may learn something from every lesson taught, or at least be reminded of great Bible truths. How often a spiritual lesson is taught, but many who need to hear it have chosen to stay home, go fishing, play golf, or be elsewhere. Building a strong congregation is the work of every member. A strong church cannot be built by a weak membership. It is difficult to build strong Christian character by erratic attendance.

Some More

We recall a kind old grocer
When the sugar he would pour,
How he'd tip the scales to balance
Then he'd add a little more.
And his business, how it prospered
Folks were always in his store
And he'd add a little more.
So it is with life, my brother,
We would write a better score
When we've done what is expected
If we'd add a little more.



For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Bill DePriest has been at home sick with the flu.

Natalie Griffin, great-granddaughter of *Janice Griffin* is back at Le Bonheur.

Nancy Petrowski, daughter of *Harold* and *Deloris Crowe* returned this week to Vanderbilt for a check up.

Continue to remember:

Jerry Gibson, Genice Collett, John Elliott, Timmy Bolden, Judy Ward, Tatarin Wilson, Lacy Wilson, William Wilson, Sonny Gay, David Crossings, Andy Ulmer, Whit Robertson, Harold Reeves, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Donna Haynes, Roy Crow, Shane Hutton, Jack Dunlap, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Betty Lang, Charlene Coker, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb

Military List:

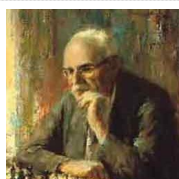
Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud

BIBLE QUIZ:

- According to James, what should we do when we “fall into temptation”
_____ James 1:2
- According to James, what should we do after “confessing our faults to one another”?
_____ James 5:16
- According to the book of Proverbs, what is “bound in the heart of a child”?
_____ Proverbs 22:15

I've Learned...

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 13. Olivia Pounders
March 15. Masey Kate Adams
March 15. Andy Clemmer
March 16. Charles Kimbrell
March 17. Patricia Crow
March 17. Laura Mae Harris (90th)
March 19. Dan Cobb
March 19. Clay Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 17. Mark & Alyce Jennings



FELLOWSHIP

Our 3rd Sunday night fellowship will be held Sunday, March 15th. You are asked to bring, soup, sandwiches, and desserts. The adult II class will be in charge of the fellowship building. Please make plans to join us Sunday night following services for an enjoyable time of fellowship and good food.



AREA EVENTS:

- The Senior Bible Bowl will be held at the Mayfield congregation Sun., March 15th.
- The Junior Bible Bowl will be held Sat. March 28th, at the Gloster St. congregation.
- Pine Vale Children's Home Annual Benefit Golf Tournament will be held Sat., April 18th. Please check the bulletin board for more details.
- Senior Adult Rally will be held at the Henderson Church of Christ in Henderson TN, Sat., March 28th. For more information check the bulletin board.

**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 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.....Michael Crotts
A.M. Prayer....Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer.....Randy Wall
P.M. PrayerPhillip Young
ClosingBrad Pounders
Wed.3/18.....Anderson Parks
Wed.3/18.....Greg Harrison
Usher & Lock ..Lonnie Weaver
Greeter.....G & K Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....101
Sunday A.M.....125
Sunday P. M.....70
Wednesday.....85
Contribution.....\$3,737.88
Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Pasta or Rice

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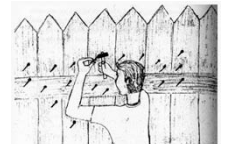
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"Hammering Nails"

Author Unknown

There was a little boy with a bad temper. One day his father gave him a bag of nails, and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He had discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.



Finally the day came when the boy did not lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It will not matter how many times you say 'I am sorry', the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.