



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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April 8, 2014

The Dangers of Following

Mike King



God, in the many laws He has given man, often instructs on righteously dealing with all men. Neither rich nor poor should get preferential treatment just because of monetary status. In dealing with unrighteous preferential treatment, God told the Israelites, *“You shall not follow the crowd”* (Ex. 23:2). Later Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, states in His conclusion, *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”* (Mt. 7:13-14).

Following the crowd in our everyday life is the easy thing to do. The world says we should seek our own pleasure and do what we want with our lives. Life is short at best and it is to be enjoyed to its fullest. While it is evident God wants us to be happy in this life, the Christian’s happiness must come from a different source than the happiness the world provides. In a very practical sense, inspired Biblical writers tell us true happiness does not come from the pleasures of this world. Rather, from a trust in God and a willingness to delight in always *“doing the will of God”* (Ps. 40:8) and by constantly *“walking in His ways”* (Ps. 128:1). Christians can be truly “happy” if they know they are God’s (Ps. 144:15).

The world promotes secular job satisfaction, popularity, recreational opportunities, social functions, and many similar activities. They are not necessarily detrimental, and in fact, can bring one much joy in their “time” (Ecc. 3:1-8). However, when any of these pleasures get in the way of our service and walk with God, then it becomes as the writer of Ecclesiastes says, “vanity” or “emptiness.” Another inspired writer states (1 Pet. 2:11). Anything which causes a Christian to not completely do God’s will in his/her life, is participating in “fleshly lusts” rather than “abstaining from fleshly lusts.” Let us choose to not follow the crowd to a road of eternal destruction in our pursuit of worldly happiness which in the end is vanity. Rather, let us enter the narrow gate in pursuit of true happiness which can only come about with unfaltering commitment to the God.

THE DAY THE CRICKETT PREACHED

Distractions are common in worship. The following story (author unknown) reminds us that at church we encounter both the marvelous and the mundane. What we see depends on where we choose to look.

As a youth, I squirmed through many a worship service. This particular Sunday was to have an added distraction. As soon as the preacher got up to deliver his sermon, a cricket walked out onto the stage. He probably came from one of the cracks that were to be found most anywhere in the old building. Everyone in the first three rows saw the cricket. He looked dazed, and stumbled near the edge of the pulpit area. Our eyes followed his every step. We could see that he had to come to the other edge again, and we shouted to ourselves, "Jump! Jump!" But alas, the cricket did not jump. Time after time he walked back and forth. I don't know if the sermon was any good that day, but the cricket was sure fun to watch. When the invitation song began, we all stood up and watched the cricket run. He almost got stepped on when the song leader walked toward the microphone, and we all laughed. Then my laughter turned to amazement. Someone had gone forward! My dad. He wasn't a Christian, and my mom and I had been trying for years to get him to come to church with us, to no avail until today. Now the preacher was taking him back to baptize him.

"Dad," I asked later. "What made you want to be baptized today?" Dad asked, "Didn't you hear how Jesus gave His life for us so that we could be saved?" I hung my head in shame. The beautiful message of the Bible did not reach me that day. I had been watching the cricket.

To this day, I believe that cricket was preaching to me. He was saying, "Watch me! Jesus isn't important. I'm more fun!" Since then there have been many more crickets walk across the stage: fretful babies, sneezes, coughs, etc. A lot of things will tend to distract a person from worshipping God. But I learned my lesson. God is more important than anything.

Every time God's Word is being preached, the devil is nearby! Jesus said, *"And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts"* (Mark 4:15). What "cricket" are you watching in worship?

~ Dan Gulley ~

HOME SPUN WISDOM

Troubles in marriage often start when a man gets so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar....

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good....

When a man marries a woman, they become one—but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one! ...

Remember just because many couples "harp at each other" does not mean that their marriage is made in heaven!

"A merry heart doeth good..." —Proverbs 17:22

YOUTH NEWS

- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Sunday, April 13th at Gloster St.
- Many of our youth are busy preparing for the Lads to Leaders convention. Please encourage them! Their rehearsal will be at 4pm April 13th.

A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD

A husband, trying to prove to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a study which indicated that men use about 15,000 words a day, whereas women use 30,000 words a day. She thought about this, and then she told him that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say. Stunned at this, he said, "What?"

~ copied

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



PRAYER LIST

Betty Young is in room 223 of the local hospital. She hopes to be released in the next day or two.

Harvey Lovelady, father of *Nicki Weaver* suffered a heart attack last week while receiving stents. He is now at home recovering and will return to the hospital in a week to hopefully receive those stents.

Pat Reed has moved to Union County Health and Rehab on Bratton Road, room 208. She will remain there while continuing rehab following hip surgery.

Eleta Grimmitt, is dealing with low oxygen levels.



We express our deepest sympathy to *Bill Lyon* in the death of his sister **Georgia Lacey** who passed away early Mon. No arrangements have been made at this time, but funeral services will be held in MO.

Continual Prayer list:

Mildred Shackelford, Joel Holley, Nancy Petrowski, Tetterian Wilson, Tony Cross, Gloria Jones, Glen Jumper, Joyce Gilmore, Eulene Hooper, Grace Anderson, Alicia Dukes, Rivers Robertson, Hudson Grisham, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

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

WHO AM I

This woman drove a tent peg through her guest's head?

_____ Judges 4:21



Wise Thoughts

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 11..... Teresa Clark
April 13..... Brad Pounders
April 19..... Thomas Wall

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 07..... Alvin & Kaye Parks



LADS TO LEADERS/LEADERETTS REHEARSAL

Many of our young people have been working for weeks preparing for the Lads to Leaders/Leaderetts Convention. They will be going to Memphis Easter weekend to compete. They will have rehearsal practice Sunday afternoon April 13th, beginning at 4:00pm. The boys will be in the large classroom in the annex building and the girls will be in the adult 3 class room. Please come and support these young people. They have worked really hard and would appreciate your support.

AREA EVENTS

- 23rd Annual Ladies Day to be held at the Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc Sat. April 12th. The guest speaker will be *Jennifer Webster*. Registration begins at 9:00am. Lunch will be served.
 - Gospel Meeting at the Ozark Church of Christ, April 13-16 with *Jim Estes* as the guest speaker.
 - Ashland Church of Christ Homecoming, April 13th. Theme: Inviting Christ Into Our Homes. The guest speaker will be *Donald Roberson*.
- * Check the Bulletin board for more details.

Bible Verse To Remember

"For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com Church Text # 662-854-0053

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.....Robbie Brown
 A.M. Prayer.....Thomas Wall
 Closing Prayer.....Perry Jones
 P.M. Prayer.....Anderson Parks
 Closing.....Gary Turner
 Wed.4/16.....Terry Stubblefield
 Wed.4/16.....Tyler Weaver
 Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton
 Greeter.....T & N Robertson

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....115
 Sunday A.M.....148
 Sunday P.M.....93
 Wednesday.....140
 Contribution.....\$4,703.70
 Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM

Gravy Mixes

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THE LESSON OF THE ANT

Several missionaries were having tea one afternoon, when an ant appeared on the white tablecloth, made its way to a tea cake, walked around it, and finding nothing to eat, made straight for the sugar bowl. After eating several bites, it went off with a small piece. They watched it disappear underneath the door. It soon returned with several of its relations. They climbed the table leg, entered the sugar bowl, and ate their fill. They then departed, each with a piece of sugar in its mouth. But it did not end there—presently a swarm of ants arrived to partake of the same sweet food.



These ants teach us a great lesson. The first went and told others the "good news," who, in turn, went and told the glad story to many more. Like Isaiah, the demoniac, the woman of Samaria, and others, we must "go and tell" the glad story of God's redeeming love!

~ Arthur Peterson ~

"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he path redeemed from the hand of the enemy" (Psa. '107:2).

"God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change...the courage to change the one I can ... and the wisdom to know it's me."