



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

April 9, 2013

Knowing For Sure That We Have It

Mike King



Many have questioned whether or not they truly have eternal life and a surety of a relationship with God. John felt that the Christian should be secure. He wrote, *“These things have I written you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God”* (1 Jn. 5:13). We must not assume that we have eternal life while ignoring what God tells us is necessary to have it! How can we determine?

If we walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7). God is light and His Word beacons this truth to all who would believe. Acceptance of that Word is essential! To *walk in the light*” means that we no longer live in sin. It also means that we access continual cleansing by the blood of Christ. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 8:1).

If we keep His commandments (1 Jn. 2:3). We can know that we know Him when keeping His commandments. We receive from Him because of our obedience (1 Jn. 3:22). Jesus authored salvation only for those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9). Having proper priorities insists that we love not the world, but seek God’s kingdom and His righteous standards (Mt. 6:33). God accepts nothing less than the presentation of our bodies in sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).

If we are children of God (1 Jn. 3:1, 10). It is God’s expression of love to call us His children. When we behave righteously, it is then obvious that we are from God and are manifested as His children. Children usually show a striking resemblance to their parent. We become His children by faith and being baptized (birthed) at which time our spirit meets His (Gal. 3:26-27).

If we love God and brethren (1 Jn. 4:7-8). Those who love God and others show that they *“know God”* in so doing. A love for God leads us to a love and appreciation for other people. A legitimate question was asked by John to stress consistency in love, *“...for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”* (1 Jn. 4:20).

If we are “in Christ” (1 Jn. 5:11). Life is to be found in Christ and we must be in Him to experience spiritual blessings and to access everything that pertains to living a godly life (Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3). *“Salvation is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory”* (2 Tim. 2:10). Jesus is the only way to come to the Father (Jn. 14:6).

“Crumbs Will Do”

Mike Riley

Recently, my wife and I stopped at a local fast-food restaurant for hamburgers. As we ate in their outside eating area, I noticed that a beautiful blackbird, having midnight black body feathers, coal black tail, and wing feathers, landed in the empty space beside our car. Standing very patiently, I knew that all he wanted was for me just to toss him a piece of bread from my hamburger. He would look at me as if to beg for just one small piece. As I began to look at him more closely, I noticed that in all his God-created beauty, he was physically flawed. This species of bird normally has three toes that are spread evenly on the ground to give them balance. This particular bird, however, only had one foot to place on the ground. The other foot was deformed and turned back so that he walked on the joint where the foot and leg connects. As I watched, the beauty of this bird really stood out as dull colored grackles begin to land, and then some aggressive pigeons appeared. None of these birds, however, could draw my attention from the blackbird. He was struggling to stand steady as a strong wind blew. Yet, with great effort he never gave in to the wind but stood firm on his one good foot. The strength, courage, and dedication of this deformed bird really touched my heart. As he was standing there on one foot, not even indicating that he was so much as even thinking about giving in to his surroundings, it almost brought tears to my eyes as I thought about his dedication to life, how he stood tall among the other birds, and how he never gave up on what he wanted. But patiently he waited, just hoping for one small morsel of bread.



Everyday I see one and usually more than one of God's creatures standing on the street corners in the city where I live, *“desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table”* (Luke 16:21). As the blackbird, for them just “crumbs will do.” I wonder why my emotions are not touched by these precious souls, who are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), as much as by the blackbird that I observed at the fast-food restaurant. Instead of tossing them a “crumb”, however, I try to judge them by thinking, “If that person really wanted money he could work. Why should I give him my hard-earned money for which I work 10 hours a day?” Then I think, “Could he really work, or was he like the deformed blackbird, only I could not see it?” Was he having as much trouble standing in the challenging “winds” (problems) of life as the blackbird? Was I missing the inward beauty of this person, or was I just not looking for the beauty, but only “seeing” the deformity?

All of this caused me to seriously think about the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31. The text tells us that this beggar “was laid” (literally, “was thrown”) or cast carelessly down by his bearers and left there. This beggar obviously suffered some physical malady which did not allow him to walk. The text also indicates that Lazarus was not fed from the crumbs, but only “desired” to be fed from the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table (Luke 16:21). Yet, the rich man could only see the undesirability of the man rather than the man's need. Perhaps our lives would be more spiritually blessed, fulfilling, and enriched if we were better able to “see” the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow man rather than the “deformities” in their lives and at least be willing to feed them the “crumbs” which fall from our table.



- Our young men who participated in Lads to Leaders will be in charge of the evening service Sunday, April 14th.
- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held April 21st, at the Gloster St. Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:50pm.
- There will be a youth devo Sunday night April 28th following services. *Phil & Paige Young* will be hosting.

AREA EVENTS

- **Marriage Seminar** hosted by the **Beech Hill Church of Christ** April 12-13, featuring *Glenn & Cindy Colley* of Huntsville, AL. Check the bulletin board for more details.
- **Hwy 178 Annual Ladies Day** April 20th with guest speaker *Rhonda Jones*. Registration 8:30-9:15 with the program beginning at 9:30. Lunch will be served following the program.
- **Gospel Meeting** at the **Oak Ridge Church of Christ**, Baldwyn April 21-24 with *Darrell Beard* speaking Mon.-Wed. at 7pm.



PRAYER LIST

Tauso Branch is in room 223 of the local hospital recovering from a heart attack and an infection. She is improving.

Pat Reed, continues to struggle with health problems. She goes to Tupelo for dialysis three times a week. If you can help her with transportation please sign the list in the foyer.

Margie Barkley, grandmother of *Amy Jennings* remains in the Tupelo Hospital recovering from a fall.

Wendell Carry, an elder at Westport, TN, and friend of *Mike* and *Sheila King* is suffering with major heart problems.

Continual Prayer :

Linda Griggs, Nicki Weaver, Audrey Anna Young, Melissa Reed, Darrell Crow, Marie Beard, Rivers Robertson, Noah Judd, Eleta Grimmitt, Connie Phagan, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jennie Frohn, Randy Dunnam, Jack Dunlap, Diane Sloan, Rosie Wilson, Tauso Branch, Prebble Foster, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb

Military List:

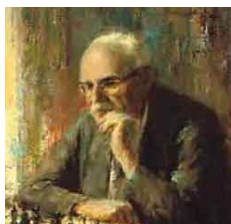
David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan



God is like:

SCOTCH TAPE

You can't see Him, but you know He's there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- April 13. Brad Pounders
- April 14. Lucy McCullough
- April 19. Thomas Wall
- April 19. Harold Crowe
- April 20. Lynn Harrison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 17. Alvin & Kaye Parks
- April 20. Bill & Nancy Frohn



YOUTH LED SERVICE

Our young men who participated in Lads to Leaders will be in charge of our services next Sunday night, April 14. Be sure to be present and encourage these young men.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for the calls, visits, food and especially your prayers during my recent surgery. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. *Carl Smith*

We want to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards, and words of compassion and kindness you have sent our way. We are deeply touched by *Mike's* and *Richard's* presence before the early morning surgery to offer their prayers and support.

In Christian Love, *Darrell Crow & Family*

We would like to thank everyone for the calls, visits & prayers during *Audrey Anna's* surgery. We feel very blessed to be part of a wonderful congregation. We love you all!

Phil, Paige, Phillip & Audrey Anna Young

3RD SUNDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP



There will be a fellowship meal following services Sunday night, April 21st. You are asked to bring finger foods and desserts. The adult I class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building.

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
 Harold Russell 534-4648
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Ruston Adams
 A.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young
 Closing Prayer..Dillon Clayton
 P.M. Prayer..Drew Drummond
 Closing.....J.L. Eaton
 Wed 4/17.....Ray Kennedy
 Wed.4/17.....Bill Lyon
 Usher & Lock...Roger Clayton
 Greeter.....L & N Weaver

OUR RECORD

Sunday School..... 125
 Sunday A.M. 140
 Sunday P.M 108
 Wednesday..... 109
 Contribution.....\$ 3,667.25
 Budget.....\$ 3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM

Canned Chicken

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A Good Name

An unknown author penned the following poem about the value of a good name:

You got it from your father,
 It was all he had to give.
 So it's yours to use and cherish,
 For as long as you may live.

If you lose the watch he gave you,
 It can always be replaced.
 But a black mark on your name, son
 Can never be erased.

It was clean the day you took it,
 And a worthy name to bear.
 When he got it from his father,
 There was no dishonor there.

So make sure you guard it wisely,
 After all is said and done.
 You'll be glad the name is spotless,
 When you give it to your son.

As you know, this agrees perfectly with what Solomon wrote by inspiration. In Prov., he wrote, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold" (Prov. 22:1). In like manner, in Eccl. He wrote, "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth" (Eccl. 7:1). Let's do our best to prize and protect our good name. ~ Wade Webster