

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

May 13, 2014

The War Between Life and Death

Michael L. King



We are reminded by the parable of the man who lay in a ditch on the Jericho road that half-life is not pleasant. He had been beaten by thieves and left just a little more than half dead, but found by two men that were a little more than half alive.

Karl Barth once wrote concerning the war between life and death that “there are no neutrals, no deserters, no mediators, and no middle ground. You are either dead or alive.” There are many churchgoers living in that state of being neither one thing nor the other. He believes enough not to be an atheist, but not enough to be considered a deeply spiritual man. He is not fully alive; neither is he quite dead. He finds his existence in sort of a half-life state.

It is also possible to find congregations operating in this same state. One may be operating as an active and alive church, but none could make the claim that it should be considered as a dynamic church. When this situation prevails, whether on an individual or congregational level, we would have to admit that we are giving God less than the whole of what we are. A hunger to bring others to Christ is often the first thing in us to die. We must become aware of this and search to find repentance, renewal, and restoration of eternal qualities.

It has been observed by James R. Blackwood that “the best opportunity for evangelism today is not outside the church, but inside, revitalizing the faith of those who are already presumed to have it: the half-awake, the half-hearted, the half-convinced, and the half-alive. That is, ourselves.” This pattern of behavior has been depicted as, who “for tender minds served up half a Christ.” The Gospel urges us to adopt the mind of Paul on this matter, “*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*” (Gal. 2:20).

There are many who believe in the crucifixion of Christ and its power, but oblivious to His resurrection in the daily lives of otherwise hopeless people. The two men on the road to Jericho were good churchmen, void at least of badness. The truth of their being half-dead needed to be understood and seen as worse than the man left destitute and near to expiration.

Jesus desires us to move toward repentance and renewal. He wants us dead or alive, but not halfway between (Rev. 3:15-16). If we are half dead, let the other half die; dying to self in order to live for God. “*He who loses his life for my sake will find it*” (Mt. 10:39). “*Rise up, O men of God!*”

IT'S NOT WORTH THE EFFORT?

Andrew M. Connally

So often the old devil seeks to discourage us by hindering the Lord's work. He is a master at discouraging the brethren. He knows every trick and ploy. So often godly saints want to quit and say...."it is not worth the effort."

Often ELDERS grow discouraged because sheep stray and reject all efforts to restore them. Many members could not care less that brethren grow weak and die spiritually, so they become grounds of discouragement by hindering the reclamation and discipline of lost members. Elders often feel... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often DEACONS grow discouraged because so few will cooperate with them in getting the job done. Other deacons do not bear their fair share of the load and this discourages too. They say too..."It is not worth the effort..."

Often BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS grow discouraged. Students do not study their lessons, and if comments are made, half are wrong or off the point! Many act as if Bible study is an "optional expedient" instead of "growth unto salvation." Then the old expression arises... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often PREACHERS despair. People often fail to react as they should to the Word. Preacher's words and actions are often misunderstood, misrepresented or actually opposed, so he becomes discouraged. After years of study, application and faithful service a handful of brethren can destroy the preacher's work by getting the ear of the eldership, so the preacher says... "It is not worth the effort..."

All of us have felt this on occasions about something we are doing for the Lord's cause. But through it all we must remember that what we do, we do for God! Many times it takes tremendous effort to persevere in our work in the Kingdom. Only those who have been there really understand the unremitting toil, sacrifice, time and effort and even money it takes to continually achieve for the Master (in any of the above roles). No one else may even notice, much less sympathize or help.

But GOD NOTICES, GOD CARES, GOD IS CONCERNED AND GOD WILL ULTIMATELY MAKE IT ALL RIGHT. It may not be worth the effort if it is for money we serve or for favor or popularity or for any of a hundred other reasons. But for GOD IT IS WORTH IT! Hang in there!

WRITING YOUR STORY

No matter what else you are doing-
from cradle days through the end-
You're writing your life's secret story;
each day sees another page penned.
Each month ends a thirty-page chapter,
each year means the end of a part;
And never an act is misstated,
never a wish from the heart.
Each day when you wake the book opens,
revealing a page clean and white.
What thoughts and what words and what actions
will cover its surface by night?
God leaves that to you-you're the writer,
and never one word shall grow dim
'Til someday you write the word, "finished"
and give your life book to Him.

Author unknown

YOUTH NEWS

- We will be honoring our High School Seniors Sunday night, May 18th, following services. Those graduating are *Jamie Crowe, Keely Chunn, Hunter Jennings, Rachel Peeler, and Ashlee Weaver.*
- Our summer youth intern, *Cody Hardin* will be here Sunday, May 18th, to begin working with our young people. We look forward to getting to know him better.
- There will be a Youth Devo Sunday night, May 25th following services. The *Parks* and *Smitheys* will be hosting.
- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held June 8th, at the Mayfield Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:50.

Bible Verse To Remember

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.
James 1:19-20

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



PRAYER LIST

Phillip Young will have surgery on his hip May 21st in Nashville.

Ione Wall fell this past weekend hitting her head and face. She is very sore but thankfully no broken bones.

Joel Holley continues to struggle with his health. He remain on the rehab floor of the Tupelo Hospital, room 172.

Nancy Petrowski, daughter of *Harold* and *Deloris Crowe* underwent a bone marrow transplant this past week at Vanderbilt. She is not feeling well at this time but it is to be expected. She will remain near the hospital for 4 months while she recovers.

Continual Prayer list:

J. L. Eaton, Darrell Crow, Bailey Adams Pat Reed, Tetterian Wilson, Tony Cross, Glen Jumper, Joyce Gilmore, Eulene Hooper, Alicia Dukes, Rivers Robertson, Hudson Grisham, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Jennie Frohn

Military List:

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



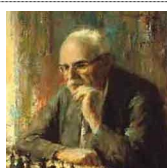
WHO AM I

Who stole the household gods of her father?

_____ Gen. 31:19

Wise Thoughts

Doing an injury puts you below your enemy;
revenging one makes you even with him;
forgiving him sets you above him.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May 19..... Bobby Marques
May 22.....Lea Anne McMillen
May 22..... Will Bowlin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 19..... Eric & Stacie Dunn
May 20.....Bill & Karen Botts



RESPONSES

Wednesday night May 7th, *Randy Wall* responded to the invitation asking forgiveness and prayers on his behalf. *Randy* is to be commended for his tender heart and his desire to live as Christ would desire.

Sunday night May 11th, *Kaye Parks* responded to the invitation asking for the prayers of the church for strength and encouragement to live as she should. Please remember *Kaye* and her family in your prayers.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION NIGHT



Our High School Seniors will be recognized Sunday night May 18th. There will be a fellowship meal following services. You are asked to bring finger foods and desserts. Please come join us as we congratulate these fine young people on this milestone in their lives. Our graduates are *Keely Chunn, Jamie Crow, Hunter Jennings, Rachel Peeler* and *Ashlee Weaver*.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday May 24th, is the date scheduled for the church picnic at the Walls Lake. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend.
- ‘Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner’ will meet Sat. May 31st. If you would like to host or be a guest please sign the list that is on the table in the foyer.



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.....Anderson Parks
 A.M. Prayer.....Paul Ormon
 Closing Prayer.....Clay Ormon
 P.M. Prayer....Terry Stubblefield
 Closing.....Steve Todd
 Wed.5/21.....Harold Crowe
 Wed.5/21.....Ray Kennedy
 Usher & Lock....Lonnie Weaver
 Greeter.....L & N Weaver

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109
 Sunday A.M..... 152
 Sunday P.M.....89
 Wednesday.....125
 Contribution.....\$3,662.00
 Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM

Canned Salmon or Tuna

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FINDING FAULT

“Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault” (Mark 7:2) Let us suppose I am looking for a field of corn to buy. I travel around seeking for a field which contains good corn. Finally, I see a field which strikes my fancy. The owner says that he will sell it. I then enter the field to see if the corn suits me. As I pass down the rows, the stalks are tall and strong. Almost every stalk has two massive ears hanging from it. However, I pay little attention. I am looking for something else. Finally, I find it. Over in a low wet corner I find a scrawny little stalk with one little nubbin on it. I pull up the stalk, nubbin and all. I take it to the owner and say, “This is very poor corn. Just look at that nubbin!”

Anyone can easily see that I wasn't being fair. I wasn't really looking to see what the field of corn was like. I was just trying to find fault with it. It would seem that I was not really interested in buying the field. I was just looking for the nubbin, and in my search for the nubbin, I overlooked all of the good corn. There is an old proverb which says, “He who is looking for faults in his brethren will surely find them.”
 (From Gospel Messenger)

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1