



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

May 17, 2011

Am I Soothed or Protected?

Mike King



It is not an uncommon thing for a motorist or passenger to buckle their seat belt behind their back or hold it with just enough tension to stop the “dinger” from sounding. It gives a sense of relief in that the harassing sound is stopped and a soothing environment is restored. That is well and good, but it does not provide any protection in time of threat or give a sense of security for the journey.

One can readily see a spiritual correlation in this illustration. We have ready access to eternal security and a genuine life to be lived for the Master. The journey is treacherous with many potential hurtful situations punctuating our path. Could it be that we at times are guilty of attending worship services to simply alleviate the pricking of the conscience and not bask in the safety of God’s love? Is it possible that we give to divert the guilt caused from being selfish and not because we love the Lord? Could it be that the entire premise of our being a Christian is entirely to stop the threat of burning in hell and not live our lives in giving honor and adoration to our Creator?

Have you noticed that motive is of primary importance? The motorist disregards the laws of the land by not wearing his seat belt, but beyond that, he leaves himself totally vulnerable to injury or death by simply stilling the manufacturer’s reminder.

Man is made with a conscience and when it is conditioned properly by the application of the Word, there is restraint and protection from the Devil’s devices. When having to make decisions or avoid temptation, it can be invaluable to us. Upon becoming Christians, we acquired a new, clean conscience (I Pet. 3:21) to serve as a “dinging” reminder to not travel life’s road without first being protected against the onslaught of the Devil.

The Bible addresses this subject by using the word “gird.” It means to “put on, bind, encircle” for protection and strength. The gird cloth was wrapped around the loin area for additional strength. This refers to the lumbar area in general and regarded as the locale of a man’s physical strength. It was to this area that his clothing, weapons, etc., were attached. The Christian’s loins are to be “girt about with truth” (Eph. 6:14). It is also ordered that Christians are to “*gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (I Pet. 1:13). Spirituality, our safety harness, is to be worn at all times during our journey for safe arrival (Rev. 2:10).

WHY DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

Charles Hodge states, “Why don’t members return Sunday night? This is the wrong question...the real question is...why did they come Sunday morning? Those who come for the right reasons Sunday morning will return Sunday night! So we keep treating symptoms and not the heart.

Do you come out of duty (fear)? Do you come to get “credit”? How many thousand times must one come? Do “brownie points” accrue in heaven? Silly -- isn’t it?

Do you come for self, personal encouragement? Many are disappointed, “I didn’t get anything out of worship”, “I didn’t receive any encouragement.” Silly - - isn’t it?

Why? Because these reasons are wrong reasons. We have promoted wrong things. We attend to encourage, to uplift, to edify, to strengthen others! Until we know this we will have attendance problems. What is the church? It is MUTUAL edification, not SELF edification! We go to serve, to help, to bolster, to praise.

Joe Connell states, it is not uncommon to hear, “I didn’t get much out of worship”, or “I don’t get anything from the Bible classes.” More than likely, the one who feels this way intends to convey the impression that something is wrong with the singing, praying, preaching, teaching in Bible classes, or the Lord’s supper. But I see it another way. The reflection is cast upon one who does not get anything from worship or study of the Word of God. In recent years, it appears that we have come to expect that something is to be done for us or to us. Our religion is becoming more and more subjective. This inner feeling that we expect to have is to be generated by the actions of those who appear before us as the teacher, preacher, song leader, etc.

It really boils down to this: “If you don’t make me feel good, I am not coming back to worship God.” It has never seemed to me that it was someone else’s responsibility to create within me the right relationship with God. This may well be why many are blaming their indifference on the fact they have not been made to feel good, for it relieves them of being responsible for themselves.

To achieve the job of Christian living, worship is done toward God- -not what we feel within ourselves. Quit thinking the church ought to do something for you and start doing something toward God. If you are sick or hungry, we will care for you. If you are naked, we will clothe you. If you are in prison, we will visit you. But, we cannot make you get anything out of worship and studying God’s Word.

~Jim McCutchen -- Taken from Elgin Bulletin

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” Psalms 29:2

YOUTH NEWS

- Youth, it is time to be making plans to attend Maywood Christian Camp. New Albany youth will attend the week of July 17-30. Forms will need to be filled out by the end of May. See *Sarah Walker* for more details.
- Picnic at the Wall’s will be Sat. May 21.
- This month’s Youth Devo will be held Sunday night, May 22. The Crotts’ and Parks’ families will be hosting.

ARE YOU LOST IN THE “WOULDS”

I would go..., But it is time to rest.

I would go..., But I am too busy.

I would go..., But the time of day is bad.

I would go..., But it is too cold.

I would go..., But I don’t feel well.

I would go..., But I just don’t see the purpose.

I would go..., But company is coming.

Come out of the “woulds” and Attend Bible Study and Worship Services!

PRAYER LIST

Ailene Cain, a friend of Madison Griggs from Jackson, TN, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Donna Haynes, sister of Darrell Crow is in an Ala. Hospital with a kidney infection.

Glenda Crumpton Cox, kidneys have failed. Her family has requested prayers on her behalf.

Bill DePriest, had cataract surgery Monday, in Oxford.

Deloris Crowe, had cataract surgery Monday in Tupelo.



Continual Prayer

Billy Joe Bray, Mark Caples, Linda Martin, Shelly Trout, Willie Jackson, David Harendt, Maxine McCarley, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Lessie Bryant, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- May 19.....Bobby Marques
- May 22.....Lea Anne McMillen
- May 22.....Will Bowlin
- May 27.....Olen Clark
- May 27.....Sheila King

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

PICNIC AT THE WALLS'



A congregational picnic is planned for Sat., May 21, at the *Walls'* lake. You may come any time during the afternoon to play games, fish, or just relax and visit. The meal will be served at 6:00pm. Be sure to bring your lawn chair. In case of rain, check the news line for any last minute changes. We appreciate *Randy, Christy, Erin* and *Thomas* for allowing us to enjoy their beautiful place and for the wonderful meal and fellowship we always enjoy!

REJOICE

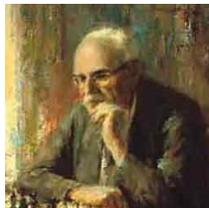
We are happy to report that *Eric Dunn's* mother *Cindy Dunn*, and his grandmother *Ethel Cook*, were baptized into Christ this past week. They will be worshiping with the Victoria Church of Christ.

COLLEGE GRADUATE

We want to congratulate *Clay Ormon*, a 2011 graduate of Mississippi Sate University. *Clay* received a bachelors degree in marketing. We are very proud of *Clay* and wish him the best.

"I'VE LEARNED"

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.



OUR RECORD

Sunday School	105
Sunday A M	138
Sunday P.M	110
Wednesday	113
Contribution	\$3,674.68
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Burrell Walton
A.M. Prayer	Greg Clayton
Closing Prayer ..	Bobby Marques
P.M. Prayer.....	Greg Harrison
Closing	Mark Jennings
Wed.5/25	Harold Russell
Wed. 5/25	Bobby White
Usher & Lock	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	L & N Weaver



**PANTRY ITEM:
CRACKERS**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....	9:30
Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Worship	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botits	316-2422
Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall	316-9255

MINISTER

Mike King	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office	534-4649

NEW TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

1. What relation was Lois to Timothy? _____
2. What was the name of the man whose right ear was cut off by Peter?

3. Which woman, who was full of good works and acts of charity, was raised from the dead by Peter? _____
4. What miracle had Jesus performed when he said, It is I, be not afraid?

5. Onesimus, was a run away slave from which city? _____
6. Did Paul baptize Erastus or Gaius? _____
7. The disciple Thomas was also known as Didymus, but what does this mean? _____
8. What profession did Zebedee, father of James and John, have?

9. Demetrius, of Ephesus was a? _____
10. Where did Jesus meet the woman of Samaria? _____

Answers: 1. Grandmother 2. Malchus 3. Tabitha 4. Walking on water 5. Colosse
6. Gaius 7. Twin 8. Fisherman 9. Silversmith 10. By a well

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