



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

June 17, 2014

Seeking the Old Paths

Mike King



There is much emphasis given to societal change today, which has impacted the church significantly. Those things that have been “surely believed” since the First Century are often held in disregard today. God spoke His mind on the matter through Jeremiah, *“Thus says the Lord, Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls”* (Jer. 6:16).

It is believed that during the time in which these words were spoken that great political pressure forced acknowledgement of pagan religion and false gods. Jeremiah was renouncing those influences. There was much class distinction, family life was deplorable, foreign cults were prevalent, the poor oppressed by the rich and creating an atrocious religious climate. It was a dark time in Judah! Their paths needed straightening.

To the hearers of Jeremiah’s words, the “old paths” were the words, commandments, and the morals in the Ten Commandments. The old paths for us today are the ways revealed by Christ spiritual laws given and His apostles as recorded in the New Testament. The old paths are for **NOW** and must be God’s way (II Tim. 3:16), the perfect way (Jas. 1:25), the new and living way (Heb. 10:20), the way of truth (II Pet. 2:2), the narrow or restricted way (Mt. 7:13-14), good and old but unpopular (II Pet. 2:2; Mt. 7:14).

The old paths of today include the **OLD FAITH** (Jude 3; Rom. 12:1-2). “Any system of faith not as old as that of Christ and His apostles could not be the good way or the old paths that we are to seek” (*Doug Harris*). The old path now is the **OLD CHURCH**. Jesus promised that He would establish a church (Mt. 16:18) which He did (Acts 2:47; 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23). Any church that was not founded by Christ through His apostles in the first century is not in the old paths! Restoring the unity for which Jesus prayed and duplicated by His apostles is a clear sign of the old paths (Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 1:10). The unity being pled for rests only on the basis of the oneness found in Eph. 4:1-4. Christ died to make this oneness possible (Eph. 2:11-20). Unless we get back to the “Old Paths,” and the unity found therein, Christ died in vain!

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BROTHERHOOD

A little boy named Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. The mother was very pleased and said, "Fine. If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." The youngster shot back, "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave. I asked Him to help you put up with me." In a world of six billion people (and growing) we all have to do some "putting up with." If we don't, life becomes intolerable. Homes, factories, schools, offices, barracks and even church pews can be difficult places to be when people neglect or refuse to practice love toward each other. Daily headlines from the local to the international scene remind us that we live in a very unloving world. Actress Jane Wyman once said, "The opportunity for brotherhood presents itself every time you meet a human being." That statement teaches good theology, for the Bible says there is "one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:6). Not everyone you meet this week is a brother/sister in Christ. But you won't meet a person this week, whether at home or work or school or the gym or at church, Christian or non-Christian, whom God does not love and for whom Jesus did not die, no matter how irritating or unlikeable they may be.

The apostle John reminds us in 1 John 2:9-10 that love is the hinge that swings open the door to brotherhood, and that hatred slams it shut — "He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him." With characteristic bluntness and clarity, John defines life in terms of light and darkness, love and hatred. Some of John's original readers sat on church pews on Sunday and sang "Oh How I Love Jesus" and "Love one Another," claiming to be in the light. But their lack of love toward persons on the other end of the pew preached a far different sermon than the one they sang. Sometimes our Christian love needs a shot of adrenaline. We hear Jesus demanding that we must love and do good to our enemies (Matthew 5:48) even as we struggle to muster up enough love to be civil to our mate or neighbor. We can eat at the Lord's Table with Christians we won't speak to in the foyer. Someone cleverly said, "Living above with saints we love, oh that will be glory. Living below with saints we know, that's quite another story." It is sometimes tough to do, but if we are to be like God we must learn to love. The opportunity for brotherhood may be sitting or standing or working or worshipping right beside you. Don't let it slip away.

~ copied ~

From Cody's Desk:

Well I survived another week. I say survived because we had a lock-in on Friday the 13th, and a full moon. Bad mojo aside, we had a fun time, played some weird games, and got no sleep. It was a fun experience. This week gets a little calmer for the youth group, we have bowling night Monday, then Wednesday we are having a drive in movie theater at the church. These may not be as fun as an all night lock-in but I can bet we'll have a fun week.

Throughout high school, in several of my classes, I sat next to a certain guy. To this day I remember his name. I could pick him out of a crowd, and we talked a little bit about school stuff. Even though I was nice to him, I never really took the time to get to know him. There's nothing wrong with this, we should be nice to everyone, but it can be almost impossible to have a close personal relationship with everyone that you come in contact. In fact, we probably all have that person who we see all the time, we take advantage of that, and never take the opportunity to get to know them well. The problem with this idea is, when we do this to God. We come together Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night to spend time together and worship God. Unfortunately, many times that's where it ends. So many times we treat God like that guy who sits next to us in class. We know who He is, but really the only time we talk to him is when we forgot our homework and we want to copy His, or when we need a pencil, or even when we need the answers to the test (even though I know none of you'd ever cheat on a test). Let's make an effort to not let God just sit next to us, but dwell within us (1 Cor. 3:16). Lets get to know Him in a close personal way, and build a close relationship with Him.

Happenings: Wednesday 18th - Movie night following services; Youth Devo Sun. night June 22nd, following services, Trip to Memphis Zoo- June 28th, money due by 22nd; Ordering Wristbands - \$2; T-shirts now able to order \$8.50

PRAYER LIST



Pat Reed was allowed to come home Sat. with home health assistance. She is still very weak.

Bill Lyon, still suffers from migraines.

Billy Smith, *Carl Smith's* brother is back in the hospital following his second back surgery. He will remain in the hospital until the middle of July.

Nancy Petrowski is still having difficult days following her recent bone marrow transplant.

Judy Ward, sister of *Paul Ormon*, has suffered from MS for quite some time and has chronic pain. She is in need of prayers and encouragement.

Victor Ashmore, husband of *Alice Ashmore* spent a couple of days in the local hospital due to breathing problems. He was released on Sunday.

Luke Goff, friend of *Erin Wall* is suffering from kidney stones.

Continual Prayer list:

Bobbie Nunnally, J. J. Harris, Larry Hester, Harvey Lovelady, Phillip Young, Joel Holley, Maxine Dunlap, Tetterian Wilson, Tony Cross, Glen Jumper, Joyce Gilmore, Eulene Hooper, Alicia Dukes, 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:

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

SAVE THE DATE:
NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF CHRIST
HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 5TH, 2014

Wise Thoughts

Four things that do not come back:
The spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life and the neglected opportunity.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 20..... Cindy Ashmore
June 22..... Luke Jennings
June 23..... Andrea Hill
June 24..... Sharon Clemmer
June 24..... Erica Crotts
June 25..... Sharon Peeler
June 26..... Shelby Carpenter
June 27..... J. L. Eaton

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 20..... Dean & Viva Dillard
June 30..... Phil & Paige Young



SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy to *Troy Robertson* and family in the death of his mother **Rivers Robertson**. *Mrs. Robertson* passed away Wednesday June 11th, after a lengthy illness, at the age of 94. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 14th at United Funeral Home in New Albany with interment at the Old Glenfield Cemetery in New Albany.

We extend our sympathy to *Bill Lyon* in the death of his brother **Jr. Lyon** of St. Joseph, MO. *Mr. Lyon* passed away Sunday and funeral services will be held Tuesday, June 17th in MO.

5TH SUNDAY SERVICES

We will have an All Day Service Sunday, June 29th. There will be a pot-luck meal following our morning worship and our evening services beginning at 1:15. Our young men will be in charge of the afternoon service. Please be inviting your friends and family to join us.



AREA EVENTS

You are invited to a Gospel Meeting at the Beans Ferry Church of Christ, June 22nd-25th. The guest speaker will be *Philip Hathcock*. Service times Mon. – Wed. will be at 7:30pm.

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 Clayton252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Brad Pounders
A.M. Prayer.....Harold Russell
Closing Prayer.....Paul Ormon
P.M. PrayerTroy Robertson
ClosingAlvin Parks
Wed.6/25..Ray Kennedy
Wed.6/25Ronnie Griggs
Usher & LockRandy Wall
GreeterR & K Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....100
Sunday A.M..... 142
Sunday P.M.....101
Wednesday..... 107
Contribution.....\$3,538.00
Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM
Spaghetti Sauce

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The Devil's Beatitudes

- Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians -they are my best workers.
- Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them.
- Blessed are the touchy that stop going to church—they are my missionaries.
- Blessed are the troublemakers - they shall be called my children.
- Blessed are the complainers - I'm all ears to them.
- Blessed are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes—for they get nothing out of his sermons.
- Blessed are the church members who expect to be invited to worship - for they are a part of the problem instead of the solution.
- Blessed are those who gossip - for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
- Blessed are those who are easily offended - for they shall get angry and quit.
- Blessed are those who do not give their offering to carry on God's work—for they are my helpers.
- Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister - for he shall be with me forever.
- Blessed are you who, when you read this, think it's about other people.