

# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

June 4, 2013

## The Parable Of The Carpenter's Tools

Mike King



Recently I read the following story that so adequately, yet simply, describes our relationship in the church. Please give thought to your role as we pursue church growth and personal enhancement.

“The carpenter’s tools had a discussion. Sister Hammer had been informed that she must leave because she was too noisy. She said: ‘If I am to leave this carpenter’s shop, Brother Gimlet must go too: he is insignificant and makes a very small impression.’

Little Brother Gimlet arose and said: ‘All right, but Sister Screw must go also; you have to turn her around and around again and again to get her anywhere.’

Sister Screw then said: ‘If you wish, I will go, but Brother Plane must go also; all his work is on the surface, and there is no depth to it.’

To this, Brother Plane replied, ‘Well, Brother Rule will have to withdraw if I go, for he is always measuring other folks as though he were the only one who is right.’

Brother Rule then complained against Brother Sandpaper and said, ‘I just don’t care, he rougher than he ought to be and he is always rubbing people the wrong way.’

In the midst of the discussion, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He had come to perform His day’s work. He put on his apron and went to the bench to make a pulpit. He employed the screw, the gimlet, the sandpaper, the saw, the hammer, the plane, and all the other tools.

After the day’s work was over and the pulpit was finished, Brother Saw arose and said, ‘Brethren, I perceive that all of us are laborers together with God.’

‘There was not an accusation against each of us that was not absolutely true, yet the Carpenter used every one of us. And there was not a place where He used any one where any other one would have done all.’

This is a simplification of teachings of I Cor. 12 and Rom. 12. Therein the concept of, “*Present our bodies a living sacrifice...one body...many members...not the same office...God hath tempered the body together*” mentality was introduced. Each of us is vital to the body regardless of our station in life as long as we maintain ourselves as a “*pure vessel.*”

## What Have They Seen in Thy House?

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

Hezekiah was not compelled to show his visitors all that was in his house, but he volunteered to do so (2 Kings 20; Isaiah 39:1-8). The prophet later asked, "What have they seen in thy house?" Hezekiah was foolish to show his treasures for it later led to the Babylonians returning to take them away.

Still it is a good question. What is there to be seen in our homes? If there is evil in our homes, we cannot always conceal it from our guests. If there is good, it likewise cannot be hidden. The all-seeing eye of heaven is aware of everything that happens in our homes (Hebrews 4:13).

Friend, let us ask ourselves, "What have they seen in our houses?"

- Love or hatred, concern or indifference, gratitude or ingratitude, unselfishness or selfishness in the home relationships? Does each member think others exist only to meet his every whim and fancy (cf. Philippians 2:1-5)?
- What type of reading material is allowed in our home? Is it material built on worldly things or erected upon the excellencies of the Bible? Are there true confessions in the home or the confessions of truth as found in the Bible and sound reading material (Philippians 4:8)?
- What about the television programs we watch? Certain movies are R-rated. Instead of such fare, families need to restrict those shows designed to appeal to our lower and baser elements. Many shows not rated so extreme are also unfit for consumption – especially young, impressionable minds (Psalm 11:3; Ephesians 4:22-24).
- Would they witness the long face of pouting, the quick flare of a temper tantrum, or uncontrollable bursts of anger when something fails to please you (Colossians 3:8)?
- What type of spiritual atmosphere have they seen in our homes? Can they leave and say we are a spiritually-minded and Bible-centered family? Paul wrote, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).
- Would they have observed us giving thanks for every meal (1 Timothy 4:3-4)? Would it be so common and frequent a habit that our children would automatically wait for an expression of thanks before they passed the first dish of food to the guests?
- How long would a guest have to remain in our home before he saw the family head read the Bible and heard him pray with the family gathered around him (Matthew 5:6)?
- What do guests see the family do if it is Sunday morning, Sunday evening or Wednesday night? Do they witness every member making preparation to attend the services of the church? Are they invited to attend? If they refuse, do the guests see the family set aside their plans to go and remain home to entertain the current visitors (Hebrews 10:25)? Or do they hear the family say, "If you will not go with us, just make yourselves comfortable. We will be back as soon as worship is concluded" (Matthew 6:33)?
- Ancient Hebrews believed if they failed to teach their children a trade, they taught them to steal. Have they seen children who are required to earn their allowance and perform their part of the household and yard duties (Proverbs 22:6)?

Have they seen the home as a workshop for winning the lost to Christ (Mark 16:15-16)?



- The Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Sunday night, June 9th at the Mayfield church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:40. The extra car driver if need, will be *Greg & Kim Clayton*
- If you need an application form for Maywood Christian Camp please see *Sarah Walker* or *Kathy Jennings* Wednesday night June 5th. These forms need to be mailed as soon as possible.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held June 23rd, and hosted by *Jason and Amy Jennings*.
- See additional events and planned activities listed in *Andy Brown's* article on the back page.

### TWENTY MINUTE SERMON

I can't stand a lengthy sermon  
Feels as though I'm in a prison;  
Surely there must be a canon  
That restricts to twenty minutes.  
Thus the man who meekly listens  
By the hour to politicians;  
But when the voice of preacher chastens  
He must quit in twenty minutes.  
Farmers linger long in toil  
Taverns burn their midnight oil;  
But he who would the devil foil  
Must get thru in twenty minutes.  
Soon this churchman came to heaven  
Asked to share God's bounty even;  
Gabriel said, "Your point is proven,  
You may have just twenty minutes."



### PRAYER LIST

**Nancy Petrowski**, daughter of *Harold* and *Deloris Crow* has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. She is in room 590 of the Tupelo Hospital. She was to begin chemo treatments Monday and will not be able to have visitors.

**Ken Joines**, minister from the Southaven area will have a biopsy of his left kidney June 4th. He has requested our prayers.

**Larry Ashmore** is suffering from kidney stones. He will return to his doctor this week for an evaluation.

**Kathy Clayton** will have tests run this week at the local hospital.

#### Continual Prayer :

**Caleb Jennings, Jann Hicks, J.V. Davis, Dennis Nichols, Pat Reed, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Margie Barkley, Melissa Reed, Marie Beard, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jennie Frohn, Randy Dunnam, Jack Dunlap, 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, Maxine Carlisle, Margret Reeves**

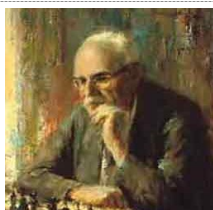
#### Military List:

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



### Good Thoughts

Faith is the ability to not panic.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 10. . . . . David Clayton  
June 11. . . . . Christy Wall  
June 12. . . . . Collett Cross

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 08. . . . . Dalton & Marie Beard  
June 10. . . . . Ray & Pat Kennedy  
June 12. . . . . Rex & Jennie Bell  
June 12. . . . . Martin & Erica Crotts  
June 14. . . . . Greg & Lynn Harrison  
June 14. . . . . Austin & Jessica Garrett



### ROBERTSON/BOYD WEDDING

You are invited to the wedding of *Heather Robertson* bride elect of *Tyler Boyd*, 2:00p.m. Saturday, June 8th, at the New Albany Church of Christ. A reception will follow at the fellowship building.

### RESPONSE

*Nancy Petrowski* requested prayers on her behalf for forgiveness of sins in her life. She desires to once again become faithful to the Lord and His church. Please remember *Nancy* as she is also struggling with serious health problems.

*Randy Wall* also responded to the invitation asking for forgiveness and wanting strength to be a better Christian. We commend him for his tender heart.

### AREA EVENTS

- **Vacation Bible School** ~ June 2-6 at the Hwy 15 church of Christ in Pontotoc. 7:00pm nightly
- A **Ladies Day** with guest speaker *Irene Taylor* is planned for June 8 at the Calvary Hill Church of Christ in Oxford. Registration begins at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided.
- A **Gospel Meeting** is planned for June 9-13 at the Calvary Hill Church of Christ in Oxford. The guest speaker will be *Robert R. Taylor, Jr.* Time: Mon.-Thurs. ~ 7:00pm nightly

**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 Jennings .....534-6671  
Troy Robertson .....534-3491

**DEACONS**

Greg Clayton..... 252-9762  
Roger Clayton..... 538-8195  
Brad Pounders.....316-7931  
Harold Russell ..... 534-4648  
Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

**TO SERVE**

Scripture.....Thomas Wall  
A.M. Prayer.....Brad Pounders  
Closing Prayer.....Bill Lyon  
P.M. Prayer.....T. Stubblefield  
Closing.....Burrell Walton  
Wed 6/12.....Olen Clark  
Wed.6/12.....Bobby Marques  
Usher & Lock...Lonnie Weaver  
Greeter.....R & K Jennings

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School..... 136  
Sunday A.M.....150  
Sunday P.M .....126  
Wednesday.....104  
Contribution.....\$4,036.38  
Budget.....\$3,817.55



**PANTRY ITEM**

Instant Oats or Grits

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**FROM ANDY'S DESK**

It's hard to believe that summer is here once again! I am so fortunate and blessed to be back here in New Albany to work with the youth. We have a busy summer lined up with all kinds of events, and it is my hope that everyone can make it to as many activities as possible. Here are some things to take note of that are approaching us quickly:

Thursday, June 6: Guys & Gals "Split" Hangout (7<sup>th</sup> and Up)

June 9 – 14: Work Camp @ Corinth

Sunday, June 16 will be our next Sunday Night Devo for 7<sup>th</sup> and Up

Friday, June 28: CANOE TRIP - \$15 per person.

I am excited about everything coming up concerning the youth, as well as being a part of worship and other events with the rest of this wonderful congregation here at New Albany. I want to thank the elders, deacons, and every other member for having me back for another summer. It really does mean the world to me, and I want each and every one of you to know how truly honored I feel to be working here. Here is a brief thought for the week that I want to leave you with: *Colossians 3:2* -

*"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."*