



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

July 10, 2012

RESCUING THE PERISHING

Mike King



As Hosea evaluated the spiritual condition of Israel he said, *“For Israel is stubborn like a stubborn calf”* having behaved obstinately (Hos. 4:16). It is conjectured that there are more who have backslidden than have remained faithful. It is also believed that there are as many people in any given city who are unfaithful in attending worship services as are active.

Those who have never learned the truth are living in a lost condition, but those who have once been faithful but have backslidden are also alienated from God. Their saddening departure grieves God and should make us sick at heart as well. Those who have drifted must be approached before their heart totally hardens.

They are born into the family of God in baptism (Gal. 3:26-27). They give up evil practices and start living right (Rom. 12:1-2). Upon becoming a Christian, they quit sin. This could involve the practices of cursing, drinking, sexual sins, all forms of ungodliness (1 Jn. 2:15-17). This too can involve culling worship of God and fellowship with the saints from their life’s activities (Heb. 10:24ff). This then reduces what religious inclinations they have to mere lip service, but their heart remains far removed from God (Isa. 29:13).

Those activities intended to keep one strong have been recklessly abandoned: Bible reading, praying, regular worship and attempts to win others to Christ. You see, when one loses a sense of seriousness and urgency for their own soul, no one else’s soul seems to matter any more either!

When a person reverses or departs doing essentials for nurturing the soul, their thinking, behaving and embracing of a God-like lifestyle bring spiritual abandonment. They have yielded to weakness of the flesh (Gal. 5:17). The love of money has also the potential to rob us of spiritual interest (1 Tim. 6:10). Others are troubled by success and comforts of life which breed laziness and a compulsion to please self. Pleasure is often a thief of faith, which Moses refused in order to serve God (Heb. 11:24-26), knowing it would be conflicting. We live in a playful and recreationally oriented society today which often causes a faith problem for our youth. Sin in general is our enemy! The weakness can come from association with evil companions (1 Cor. 15:33).

Regardless of the cause, backsliders are perishing and must be sought after and returned to the fold (Mt. 18:11-13; Lk. 15:7).



PRAYER LIST

Laura Mae Harris, remains in room 305 of the Union Health Care Center on Bratton Rd., recovering from hip surgery. Please remember her as she continues with therapy.

Raymond Vest, is weak and not feeling well. Please remember him.

Bill Lyon, is slowly improving.

Roger Clayton, will return to his doctor July 16th concerning his back problems.

Continual Prayer

Bobby Walker, Joe Downs, Juerhee Beard, Harold Vaughn, Johnny Garrett, Brooks Russell, Altha Rogers, Jack Dunlap, Tauso Branch, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden

Military List:

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- July 14. Steve Hill
- July 21. Ione Wall
- July 22. Hunter Jennings
- July 22. Matt Jennings
- July 22. Jason McMillen
- July 27. Dixie White

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- July 14. Perry & Gloria Jones
- July 25. Bobby & Sue Marques



MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial Contributions have been sent to Pine Vale Children’s Home in memory of *Anna Jennings Davis* and *Ruby Gaines*. Letters have been sent to each family to let them know of the contribution.

FELLOWSHIP

There will be a fellowship supper following services Sunday night July, 15th. You are asked to bring finger foods and homemade ice cream. Please join us as we enjoy a period of good food and fellowship together.



AREA EVENTS

- A Gospel Meeting will be held at the Pine Bluff Church of Christ July 15th-18th with guest speaker *Robert Rawson*. Mon-Wed at 7:30pm.
- Vacation Bible School will be held at the Fulton Church of Christ, July 15th-18th, at 7:00pm each night.
- The Potts Camp Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting July 22-25 at 7:00pm each evening. There will be a different speaker each night. Monday night will be New Albany night.

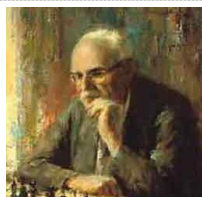
* *Andy Brown* will speak Sun. night, July 15th.

SYMPATHY



We express our deepest sympathy to *Teresa Clark* and family in the death of her mother *Corrine Hall*. Ms. Hall passed away Saturday, July 7th. Funeral services were held Tuesday July 10th, at the Tunica Funeral Home in Tunica, MS.

“I BELIEVE”
...that a good name will shine
forever.



Who's To Say What's Right?

We live in a land of freedom. We have the freedom of religion, the right of free speech and the right to bear arms. We have the right to a speedy trial and protection against cruel and unusual punishment. These, among other things, are specified in our nation's Bill of Rights. We are an independent people. We have the right, within reason and law, to do whatever we want, whenever we want to do it. As Americans, we can believe what we chose, vote the way we choose, and live the way we choose.

Unfortunately, many have allowed these freedoms to permeate the way they view God and the Bible. Many have put themselves in the place of God to determine what is right and what is not. The freedom to choose how we live as citizens of the United States has, for many, become the same standard used in deciding how we are to live as citizens of God's kingdom.

For example, let's consider sexual morality. In America, anything is OK as long as it is right for you and doesn't harm kids or pets. If teenagers want to have sex, who's to say that it's wrong for them to do so? If people want to live together outside of marriage, who has the right to say that they shouldn't? If people want to marry others of their own gender, who has the right to oppose it? If people want to get a divorce because they don't like their spouse anymore, who's to say that's wrong? In fact, those decisions may actually be very good ones, they may be the best choice under the circumstances - at least from a human perspective.

But, is what we think good and right necessarily what God thinks is good and right? Many have become so accustomed to making their own choices that they have come to believe that whatever they think must be what God thinks. They have, in effect, imposed their views upon God. They have decided that if they think something is good (i.e. sex outside of marriage) then God must also think that it is good. How can God condemn something that is good?

Cunningly Satan has persuaded us to become our own god. We have begun to judge God by our own goodness rather than judging ourselves by God's standard—His Son Jesus and the words of Jesus, the Bible. God is our standard. His word is our only way of determining right and wrong. Let us not get sucked in to the way of thinking of those around us. Let us not judge God by ourselves, but ourselves by God. Let us take on the mind of Christ, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."* (Phil.2:5).

~Joe Chesser, Bulletin Gold. 08/2009



From: Andy's Desk

Hey everybody! I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing 4th of July week. I am excited about the rest of July, and ready to begin all of the activities we have planned. Apart from our regular, weekly happenings, there are also a few special dates you need to keep in mind:

- * July 13-14: Tishomingo Canoe/Camping Trip
- * July 28: Memphis Redbirds Game
- * August 3-4: Lock-In!

I hope you mark these dates and try to attend each one if at all possible, as well as our weekly devotionals and Bible studies! The youth group is only as strong as the members, and I am very proud to be working with such amazing youth here in New Albany!

This week I want each of us to read and meditate upon these verses coming from **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**: **16** *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*"

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	100
Sunday A.M.....	140
Sunday P.M.....	93
Wednesday.....	75
Contribution.....	\$3,443.50
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Tyler Weaver
A.M. Prayer.....	Paul Ormon
Closing Prayer.....	Shane Crotts
P.M. Prayer.....	Bill Frohn
Closing.....	Clay Ormon
Wed 7/18.....	Mark Jennings
Wed. 7/18.....	Bill Lyon
Usher & Lock.....	Andy Clemmer
Greeter.....	L & N Weaver



PANTRY ITEM

Pinto Beans

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 Botts.....	316-2422
Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	538-8195
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall	316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

MINISTER

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

Sheep Don't Wallow

There was a lamb and its mother. The lamb passed a pigpen each morning on the way to the pasture with its mother. Watching the pigs wallow in the mud seemed like such fun, and on an especially hot day the lamb asked his mother if he could jump the fence and wallow in the cool mud. She replied, "No."

Then the lamb asked, "Why?"

The mother just replied, "Sheep don't wallow!"

This didn't satisfy the lamb. He felt she was just over-restrictive. So as soon as the mother was out of sight, the lamb jumped the fence and ran to the pigpen. He was soon feeling the cool mud on his feet, his legs, and soon his stomach. After a few moments, he decided he had better go back to his mother, but he couldn't. He was stuck.

Mud and wool don't mix. His pleasure had become his prison. He cried out and was rescued by the kindly farmer. When cleaned and returned to the field, the mother said, "Remember: sheep don't wallow."

Sin is like that. It looks so nice, we may think we can escape when we wish, but it is not so. Pleasures often become prisons.



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