



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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Change Without Effort?

Mike King



Most everything we encounter daily involves quick and smooth dealings. We become very impatient with our computer when it operates at “only” a “few” million cycles per second! Our tolerance has been lowered for anything that requires time, effort, diligence and discipline (2 Pet. 1:5, 10). I have found no easy way to become knowledgeable of God’s Word other than by disciplined study (2 Tim. 2:15). True repentance comes with self-denial so change can come with time (Acts 17:30). We have learned that repentance does not lay down the “road of least resistance!” The Corinthian Christians expended great energy and discipline to effect a positive change in their lives (2 Cor. 7:10-11) and it worked (I Cor. 6:11).

It is not uncommon for us to mistakenly think that we can improve our inner character and make personal change effortlessly. Many marketing companies selling self-help materials and programs give high billing to “subliminal learning.” This is where the subconscious mind does all the work. Provide some stimuli in the form of images or words to the mind and it will do the rest. Tapes are often played while one sleeps and the subconscious “learns” these messages and change occurs without our awareness of it. Some advertisers portray their products as “effortless self-change.” These programs are said to help with weight loss, improvement of memory, to stop smoking, etc. I would not quarrel with the effectiveness of subliminal learning *per se*, but with the shallow assumptions appearing to make character building so casual. It is dangerous to misjudge the difficulty of character improvement. There is no worthwhile change in character that can be made without effort! “A man’s character is like a fence, it cannot be strengthened by white-wash.”

Jesus called people to a radical program of character renovation. This involves some painful stripping away of filth that has accumulated to corrode the heart (Heb. 12:9-11). We have been invited into the realms of blessings and things that pertain to spiritual life (Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3). This sojourn requires the making of a complete self-sacrificial commitment - a discipleship that costs us everything (Mt. 10:38-39; Lk. 14:25-33). One church posted on their marquis: “*The Cost of Discipleship. 20% Off. This week only.*” Superficial treatments yield only superficial cures. “He who dreads new remedies must abide old evils.”

What Happens In Heaven When We Pray?

(This is one of the nicest e-mails I have received in a while).

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel-guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section where all petitions to God in prayer are received." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessing the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked. "So sad," the angel sighed. "after people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgements." "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord." "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy." And if you can read this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity." "If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world." If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are envied by and more blessed than three billion people in the world." "If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm. You're unique to all those in doubt and despair."

"Okay. What now? How can I start?"

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special, and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Have a good day. Count your blessings. And if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

~ copied

The Bible Speaks

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library. I am always— and above all—the Truth.

To the pilgrim, I am a strong staff.

To the one who sits in darkness, I am the light.

To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens,
I am sweet rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are tossed about by storms of life,
I am a steadfast anchor.

To those who search for salvation, I reveal the
Savior of the world. I am the Bible,
God's wonderful gift to mankind.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Tim. 3:16

~ Bible Digest Vol. 30 # 8

Golf and Church

A man came out of his house on his way to worship one Sunday morning, just as his neighbor came out and said "Henry, come play golf with me today." Henry with an expression of self-righteous horror replied, "This is the Lord's day, and I go to worship. Certainly I would not play golf with you." After a moment's embarrassed silence the golfer quietly replied, "You know, Henry I have often wondered about your church, and I have admired your fidelity. You know, however, that this is the seventh time I have invited you to play golf with me and you...have never invited me to go to church with you." When is the last time you invited your neighbor? *"He said to them, Go ye into all the worlds and preach the gospel to every creature."* Mark 16:15



PRAYER LIST

Tauso Branch is in room 225 of the local hospital suffering from congestion. She is not doing well at this time.

Ruth Ann Stroud, neighbor of the *Jennings*, fell last week and broke her hip. She is in the Oxford Hospital recovering from surgery.

Yolaine Cousar, sister of *Yolanda Stubblefield* will be undergoing tests.

Continual Prayer :

Elly Strokbine, Nancy Petrowski, Eleta Grimmett, Troy Robertson, Melissa Reed, Suzette Renix, Ken Joines, J.V. Davis, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jack Dunlap, Rosie Wilson, Prebble Foster, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn

Military List:

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July 27.....Dixie White
August 03..... Ray Kennedy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 25..... Bobby & Sue Marques



MARY & MARTHA CLASS



The Mary & Martha ladies class will meet Thursday, July 25th at 9:00am in the annex building. This class meets the last Thursday of each month and lasts about an hour. All ladies are welcome.

5TH WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING



Please make plans to join us for our 5th Wednesday night singing July 31st at 7:00pm. All men and boys who would like to lead a song are encouraged to do so. If you have a request please let one of the song leaders know.



YOUTH DEVO

This month's Youth Devo will be held Sunday night July 28th, following evening services. The boys are asked to bring drinks and the girls chips. *Lonnie and Nicki Weaver* will be hosting.

AREA EVENTS

- The **Potts Camp Church of Christ** invites you to a Gospel Meeting July 28th-31st at 7:00pm. There will be a different speaker for each service. Monday the 29th will be New Albany night. Check the bulletin board for mote details.
- **Chapman Church of Christ Lectureship** July 28-31, at 7:00pm. There will be a different speaker each night. The topic will be 'Daily Christian Living.' Check the bulletin board for more details.
- A Gospel Meeting is planned for July 29th-Aug. 1st at the **Crockett Church of Christ** in Senatobia, MS. *Michael Bates* of the Batesville congregation will be the guest speaker.

BIBLE TRIVIA

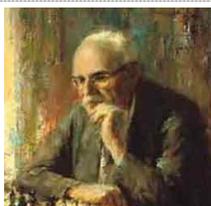


* When Absalom weighed his hair at the end of every year, what did it weigh? _____ 2 Sam. 14:26

* In Romans 5:20-21, what two things are mentioned in opposition? _____

Good Thoughts

A man does not start turning old when his hair starts graying, but when his enthusiasm towards life and its joy start dropping. Just keep checking your age!!



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 534-4648
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Dan Cobb
 A.M. Prayer.....Bill Botts
 Closing Prayer....Andy Clemmer
 P.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
 Closing.....Bobby White
 Wed 7/31.....Dalton Beard
 Wed.7/31.....Olen Clark
 Usher & Lock....Lonnie Weaver
 Greeter.....B & A Pounders

OUR RECORD

Sunday School..... 129
 Sunday A.M.....152
 Sunday P.M125
 Wednesday104
 Contribution.....\$3,632.89
 Budget.....\$3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- *When it is announced that someone is sick, **DO YOU** send them a card, offer help, visit them in the hospital, or get irritated with announcements about people you don't even know?
 - *When new souls are added to the church, new members place membership, or people respond asking for prayers **DO YOU** introduce yourself and welcome them and encourage them?
 - *When there isn't enough fellowship **DO YOU** invite Christians into your home or plan and carry out activities for others?
 - *When no one seems friendly, **DO YOU** become a friend to someone in need, make it your place to greet visitors, or invite people who are weak into your home?
 - *When Bible classes are provided **DO YOU** attend faithfully and encourage others to do so, prepare your lesson, contribute to the class discussion or sit with your mouth shut waiting for the class to become more interesting?
 - *When someone is absent from the assembly **DO YOU** call to find out why, exhort and encourage them, offer transportation or even notice that they are missing?
 - *When there is a special program, **DO YOU** help advertise the meeting, invite others to come, encourage others to participate in a Bible study, support the effort with your attendance or ignore the whole thing?
- Now from what activity did you say you have been excluded??



~ Tim Woodward