



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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The Cross and The Church

Mike King



It is not uncommon for people to magnify the cross of Christ while minimizing the church. The scriptures show a definite relationship between the two. One can only understand the nature of the church by viewing it in the light of the cross. A proper understanding of the correlation of the cross and the church creates a greater appreciation for God's plan of redemption.

The cross made the church possible. The cross brought the Jews and Gentiles together, making that which was two, one body (Eph. 2:13-16). The dividing wall, the law, was taken away making one new man, which is His body, the church. Jesus was made head over that body (Col. 1:18) with all its members being fellow-cross bearers.

It was the blood of the cross that purchased the church (Acts 20:28). It did not exist prior to the cross. The cross brought about a covenant end, then a "re-marriage." They became "*dead to the law by the body of Christ; that [they] should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead...*" (Rom. 7:14). Before the cross, the New Testament was not in force and without it the New Testament church could not exist. Jesus became the mediator of this new covenant (testament) and served as the testator (will maker) by His death (Heb. 9:15-16). The blood of Jesus is the blood of the New Testament which tells about and directs the church.

The cross is integrally tied to the worship of the church. We have access to God through Christ and His cross, for through the cross we are reconciled to God (Eph. 2:15-16) after having been distanced by sin (Isa. 59:1-2). The cross gives us a new and living way to approach God (Heb. 10:19-20). Christ authored salvation (Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus was made our High Priest and He in turn made us priests (1 Pet. 2:9). Every act of worship relates to the cross.

The cross provides entrance into the church, the Lord's body. The message of the cross must be preached to every creature for it is the only means for approaching the benefits of the cross of Christ which are: Faith (Jn. 8:24); Repentance of sins (Acts 3:19); Confession of faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10); and Baptism into His name (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4). Under the Law of Moses, there was no remission of sins without the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:22), so Jesus appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself...He was offered once to bear the sins of many (Heb. 9:22-28). If there is no cross, the church is of no value!

TAKING AIM

A young lady was relating an experience that she had in a college Bible class with her teacher; we'll call him Brother Smith. She said that Brother Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons.

This particular day when Sally walked into class she could tell they were in for another fun day. There was a big target on the wall and a table full of darts. Brother Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry and he would let them throw some darts at the picture.

Sally's girlfriend on the right drew a picture of the girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Her friend, on her left side, drew a picture of his little brother. Sally decided to draw a picture of Brother Smith. She really put a lot of detail into her drawing, even to the extent to drawing pimples on his face. She was really pleased at the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and was really getting into the dart throwing, with much laughter and a lot of hilarity involved. Some of the darts were thrown with such force that the pictures were ripped. Sally was toward the end of the line, and filled with disappointment when Brother Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

Sally was thinking how mad she was that she hadn't been able to throw darts at her picture of Brother Smith. The classroom had been quite chaotic during the dart throwing. Then Brother Smith removed the target from the wall and revealed the picture of Jesus that had been directly underneath the target.

A complete hush fell over the room as the students viewed the torn picture, the eyes pierced out, and marks and holes all over the Savior. Brother Smith said only these words, "*In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*" Nothing else was necessary as the tear-filled eyes of the students were riveted on the picture of Christ. The students remained in their seats even after the bell had rung, then slowly trickled out of the classroom.

~The Forest Hill News ~



YOUTH NEWS

- All the youth that attended at Maywood Christian Camp last week wanted to say "Thank You" for the many cards they received. They all had a great week.
- Thanks so much to *Sarah Walker* for bringing our youth home from camp Saturday. *Sarah* also served as a counselor at Maywood this past week. We appreciate all she does with our youth.
- Several of our young people will travel to Atlanta this Thursday. They will be going to Six Flags and other attractions while there. They will return home Saturday. Please pray for their safety.
- On August 2nd, the youth will go the Smithville, MS to visit with *Reba Turner*, the elderly lady who lost everything in the recent tornadoes. They will be taking some more items of which she has need. There is a list on the table in the foyer if you would like to help with some of her needs.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10: 13-17).
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)



PRAYER LIST

Pat Reed, had foot surgery Monday in Memphis. She will be unable to put any weight on her foot for several weeks.

Kim Smith, wife of the youth minister at the Foote St congregation in Corinth, had heart surgery Monday.

Continual Prayer

Billy Joe Bray, Mark Caples, Al Pless, Eleta Grimmett, Travis Jamieson, Aliene Cain, Donna Haynes, Willie Jackson, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden & Pauline Smith

Military List:

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

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to *Viva Dillard* in the death of her grandmother *Edith Hawkins*, who passed away Friday, July 22nd. Funeral services were held Sunday in afternoon in Pontotoc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 27.....Dixie White
August 03.....Ray Kennedy
August 05.....Martin Crotts

“I’VE LEARNED”

...That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.



THANK YOU

Thank you for all your cards and prayers during our family’s loss.

Ronnie Griggs and family

BRIDAL TEA

There will be a bridal tea for *Megan Powell*, bride elect of *Craig Owen*, Sunday afternoon August 7, from 1:30-3:00, at the fellowship building. They are registered at Calico Mushroom, Southern Traditions, Wal-Mart, Target and Bed Bath and Beyond.

5TH SUNDAY SERVICE

This next Sunday, July 31, we will have an “All Day Service.” We will have Bible class at 9:30, morning worship at 10:30, lunch at noon (potluck), and our afternoon services at 1:15. *Ray Kennedy* will bring the morning lesson and the afternoon service will be led by our young men. Please join us for worship and fellowship this Sunday.

AREA EVENTS

- **Chapman Church of Christ Lectureship** is July 31-August 3. There are different speakers during the week. Check the bulletin board for details.
- **The Batesville Church of Christ** will have a **Gospel Meeting** July 31-Aug. 3, at 7:00 each evening. The guest speaker will be *Chad Ramsey*.
- **Clarksdale Church of Christ** invites you to their **Gospel Meeting** August 7th-10th. *Robert Rawson* will be the guest speaker.
- **Senior Adult Rally** at the Booneville Church of Christ Saturday, August 27 from 9:30am-1:30pm. Guest speaker is *Levi Sides*. Lunch will be provided in the annex.

* **Please remember Mike and Shelia next week as they are away from us traveling.**

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	116
Sunday A M	137
Sunday P.M	107
Wednesday	NA
Contribution	\$3,086.25
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Steve Todd
A.M. Prayer.	Bill Botts
Closing Prayer.....	Bill Lyon
P.M. Prayer.....	Ray Kennedy
Closing	Carl Smith
Wed 7/27.	Greg Harrison
Wed. 7/27	Bobby White
Usher & Lock.....	Roger Clayton
Greeter.....	B & A Pounders



PANTRY ITEM:
SOUP

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	534-5240
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

WHAT IF?

- What if GOD didn't take time to bless us today because we didn't take time to thank Him yesterday?
- What if GOD decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?
- What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when GOD sent the rain?
- What if GOD didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?
- What if GOD took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?
- What if GOD took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?
- What if GOD didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?
- What if the door of the kingdom was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?
- What if GOD stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?
- What if GOD would not hear our prayer today because we would not listen to His Word?
- What if GOD answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?
- What if GOD met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

WHAT IF....

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