



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

August 23, 2016

Transgressors Live

A Hard Life

Mike King

The reason the way of
the transgressor is
hard is because it's so
crowded.

Kin Hubbard

“Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors is hard” [KJV] (Prov. 13:15). It is observed by some that it is forbidden for Christians to do anything: drink, dance, curse, lie, cheat, fornicate, etc., but sinners can do everything and have a great time in life. This is the Devil’s deception because there are some things sinners cannot do:

Sinners cannot have a Christian home. They will never know the joys of being a husband and wife striving for personal character excellence (Eph. 5:23ff). It is impossible for them to be the parent or child they should be while disregarding and disobeying God’s commands (Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 22:6). Great financial successes might come and all of earth’s accolades, but never experience helping those whom he/she would love to see go to reach heaven.

Sinners have no hope. Those outside of Christ are *“aliens from the commonwealth of Israel...strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world”* (Eph. 2:12). That hope is the *“anchor of the soul”* (Heb. 6:19) for believers, but a millstone about the neck for the disobedient.

Sinners cannot have help. God will not bless those continuing to live in sin. *“The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto [him]”* (Heb. 13:5-6). Paul said, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13). A sinner cannot have the confidence for saying that! Christians can be found *“casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you”* (I Pet. 5:6-7). Living in rebellion against God repels His help, the *“anchor of the soul”* (Heb. 6:19).

Sinners cannot have Happiness. People of the world can have fun but not real true joy. Genuine joy comes only from faithful service. Happy people are those who are deeply thankful and humbled by the awareness of living forgiven. Those in Christ have: forgiveness (Eph. 1:7); fellowship (I Jn. 1:6-10); faith (Heb. 11:1) and final victory (Rev. 3:21).

Sinners cannot have heaven. *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”* (Ps. 9:17). Their names will not appear in the book of life, but cast into fire (Rev. 20:15). It is only *“in Christ”* all spiritual blessings rest (Eph. 1:3).

How You Can Have a Happy Family

Today's family is on the minds of politicians, sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, counselors, philosophers, and theologians. *Newsweek* magazine (May 15, 1978) featured a front page story on the modern family. *Reader's Digest* condensed this analysis in the August, 1978 issue. The family is on everybody's mind. Bookstores are stocked with popular paperbacks on subjects ranging from the art of living with others, to parenting, to coping with children, to managing money. This modern emphasis only reflects what's been in the Bible all along: The family is God's idea! True happiness and mutual satisfaction only come when family members respect God's principles to guide their lives.

To run a test of your own home situation you might ask yourselves the following questions:

1. Is my mate closer to God or further from God because of me?
2. Can my family see that going to heaven is really the most important priority in my life?
3. Does our family take a few minutes each day to read and discuss God's word?
4. Do all the family members pray together at least once a day besides at meal-time?
5. Is our family ministering to others who are needy, lonely, and struggling, or are we self-sufficient and isolated from those whom Christ came to serve?
6. Does our family talk to one another in loving tones as though we appreciated and valued each other?
7. Does our family have time set aside to do enjoyable, recreational activities together?
8. Does each member of the family know that they are valued and loved"? Has this been openly and affectionately expressed to them?
9. Are our children growing up to have self-esteem and confidence in who they are? Can each child look himself in the mirror and say, "I'm glad I'm me"?
10. As time goes by is our family drawing closer to God or is it fragmenting?
11. Is our relationship such that if I had it to do all over again, I would marry the same person, have the same children, and give myself to the same life? If I would select ideal parents for me, would I choose my mom and dad?

These questions will probe the minds and make us think. Begin today to strengthen your family ties and nurture your marriage relationship. God has given you only one wife, one husband, one family, and one life - make the most of it? Live, love and grow together. - Calvin Warpula

Are You Helping This Church To Grow?

It is easy to help the Church To Grow When We...

- * Have a deep concern for the lost.
- * Enter the worship with preparation and enthusiasm.
- * Are interested in intense Bible study.
- * Work together on church projects.
- * Encourage those who are serving the Lord.
- * Dedicate ourselves to keeping our lives pure.
- * Express brotherly love to all church members.
- * Get along, are at peace, and harmonious.
- * Help others in the name of Jesus.
- * Are willing to be teachers.
- * Commit all our ways to the Lord.
- * Demand preaching the whole counsel of God with love.
- * Are optimistic.

It is difficult for the Church to Grow When we...

- * Are not concerned about lost souls.
- * Stay away from worship and Bible class.
- * Rarely read out Bibles.
- * Refuse to participate in church activities.
- * Complain and criticize others.
- * Live ungodly lives.
- * Never associate with the brethren outside of worship.
- * Cause discord and are contentious in the church.
- * Selfishly serve ourselves.
- * Only serve God when we feel like it.
- * Only like "feel good" type of sermons.
- * Are pessimistic.

(Read Acts 9:31)

By: Ed Sterchi

PRAYER LIST



Bill Lyon continues to suffer from inner ear problems. He was admitted to the Tupelo Hospital Sunday for tests. He was released Monday and given a new medication.

Sympathy: We express our deepest sympathy to Dalton & Marie Beard in the death of Dalton's father, Lyndon Beard. Mr. Beard passed away Thurs. August 18th, at the age of 86, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held Sat. Aug. 20th, at the Chapman church of Christ, where he was a long time member.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Wade Chism, Todd Coleman, Liz Collins, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Bill DePriest, Jackie Dodd, Gene Dowdy, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Lana Gann, Sonny Gay, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Phillip Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Carolyn Jernigan, Judy Kirk, Perry Lepard, Jo Ann Mayer, Jean Simmons, B.A. Stubblefield, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Chris Windham, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Wanda DeLoach, Perrin & Jean Drummond, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Claudia Senter, Mayner Senter, Miriam Styers, Ione Wall

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- August 30. Richard Adams
August 30. Alyce Jennings
August 30. Troy Robertson
August 31. Cade Carpenter
August 31. Rachel Peeler
September 01. Michael Crotts
September 01. Eli Reed
September 03. Bill DePriest (92)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 29. Larry & Janet Drummond



AUGUST CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- The Youth Devo for this month will be held Aug. 28th, following evening services. Phil & Paige Young will be hosting.
Care Group 4 will meet at the home of Mike and Sheila King Sunday night, Aug. 28th, following services
Deacons meeting Sun. August 24th, at 5:00pm.
Our 5th Wed. night singing will be held Aug. 31st.
Elders', Deacons', Preacher visitation night is Aug. 30th, at 6:30pm.

AREA EVENTS

- Senior Adult Rally will be held August 27th, at the Booneville church of Christ. Time: 9:30am-1:30pm. The guest speaker will be Philip Hatcock. Please check the bulletin board for more details.
The Sherman church of Christ will be hosting a homecoming and Gospel meeting August 28-31. The guest speaker will be Doug Burlison. Please check the bulletin board for details.
Freed-Hardeman University RUSH 2016 will be held Sept.16-18. Please check the bulletin board for more details.

BIBLE QUIZ

How many of Hadadezer's chariots did David capture?

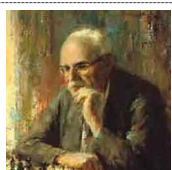
- a) 250 b) 530 c) 1000



1 Chronicles 18:3-4

I've Learned...

The most valuable antiques are old friends.



"The family, through God's eyes, as SEEN in 2016!"



Visit our website @ http://www.nacoc.us

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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 Jennings316-1305
Troy Robertson316-3163

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Alvin Parks
A.M. Prayer.....Ruston Adams
Closing Prayer.....Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....Alvin Parks
ClosingBill Lyon
Wed.8/31.....Harold Russell
Wed.8/31.....Troy Robertson
Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....113
Sunday A.M.....135
Sunday P. M.....92
Wednesday.....103
Contribution.....3,673.25
Budget.....\$4,037.54



PANTRY ITEMS

Pantry Full

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I WISH YOU MUD PUDDLES AND DANDELIONS

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are to take over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white stuff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm, so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.



When I feel the wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it is messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say "thee" and "thou" and "grant me this, give me that." My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight, Sorry I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from?

No wonder God loves the little children!!!

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." Just a reminder about the important things in life. I wish you mud puddles and dandelions!

~ via the internet, Bridgeport Bulletin