



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

August 25, 2015

Regenerating

A

Degenerate



Mike King

The term “regenerated” appears only twice in the Bible: Titus 3:5; Matt. 19:28. The expression is used after depicting the sinful state of man because he had fallen so short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:9, 10, 23). The Devil was actively on duty, tempting and drawing men away from God by appealing to their lusts (Jas. 1:13-15). Man became degraded by his sin and began to degenerate. From his corrupted state, he can enjoy a regenerated and restored life.

The necessity is shown above, but man is as grass in that he withers and is born of incorruptible seed (1 Pet. 1:22-25). It is necessary that the degenerated life be born of water and Spirit to inherit the kingdom or it remains faulty and unacceptable (Jn. 3:3).

The degenerate has, or is, dying away and needs to be spiritually quickened or made alive once again. This occurs through Christ and His life-giving power (Eph. 2:1-5). The Gentiles were dead in sin, alienated from God and without hope, but found quickening of life with Christ (Col. 2:13).

The means whereby one can be regenerated is by being born of the water and Spirit (Jn. 3:5-6). Wherein, we are saved by God’s mercy by washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit through Jesus’ death. The Holy Spirit makes this renewal known through the inspired Word. Jesus was the “Living Word” and when embraced by obedience, life can be achieved.

This regeneration is evidenced through the love we have for our brethren (1 Jn. 3:14-17). It must be obvious that washing and renewal have taken place. It must be made visual that “we have been with Jesus.” We use the word “converted” for this very reason, because a transformation has occurred. The fruits of a Spirit-led life can be seen (Gal. 5:22-23).

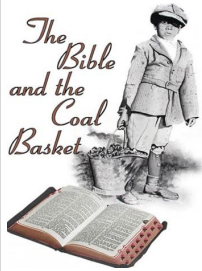
There must be permanence or completion to this process. This means that we must perform His work until the day of Christ (Phil. 1:6). If God is in us, then there must not only be a will, but also a doing of “*His good pleasure*” (Phil. 2:13; Acts 1:1). Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ for “*we are more than conquerors*” (Rom. 8:35-39). Believing leads to a performing of the regenerated life.

The regenerated life is one that is “*quickened*” or brought to life (Jn. 5:21). We are “*begotten*” by Jesus (1 Jn. 5:1) if we lovingly keep His commands, making us a “*new creation*” (2 Cor. 5:17) and blessed by living the “*new life*” (Rom. 6:4).

Reading the Bible

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"



The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.

That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day.

The Town of Don't-You-Worry

There's a town called Don't-You-Worry
On the banks of River Smile,
Where the Cheer-up and Be-Happy
Blossom sweetly all the while.

Where the Never Grumble-Flower
Blooms beside the fragrant Try,
And the Ne're Give Up and Patience
Point their faces to the sky.

In the valley of Contentment
In the province of I-Will,
You will find this lovely city,
At the foot of No-Fret Hill.

There are thoroughfares delightful
In this very charming town,
And on every hand are shade trees
Named the Very Seldom-Frown.

Rustic benches, quite enticing
You'll find scattered here and there;
And to each a vine is clinging
Called the frequent-Earnest Prayer.

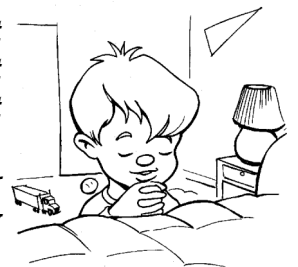
Everybody there is happy,
And singing all the while,
In the town of Don't -You-Worry
On the banks of River Smile.

~ I. J. Bartlett ~



Dear Lord,

*So far today God, I've
done all right. I haven't
gossiped, haven't lost
my temper, haven't
been greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish, or ever
indulgent. I'm really
glad about that. But in a
few minutes Lord, I'm
going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm
probably going to need a lot more help.*



BIBLE QUESTION:



What nationality was Timothy's father _____? (Acts 16:1)

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Crystal Bickerstaff, daughter of *J. L. Eaton* is having tests this week at the Tupelo Hospital and also the Vanderbilt Hospital.

Lisa Russell, mother of *Madison Griggs* has completed her chemo and radiation treatments. She will return to her doctor in the next few weeks for check-up.

Mildred Shackelford, sister of *Dixie White* has suffered a stroke and is the Tupelo Hospital.

Sympathy:

We express our sympathy to *Bobby* and *Sue Marques* in the death of their nephew **Norman Brown**. *Mr. Brown* passed away August 19th, in Georgia. He had been on our continual prayer list for quite some time suffering from heart problems. He was 43 years old.

Continue to Remember:

Timmy Bolden, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Jackie Dodd, John Elliott, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Sonny Gay, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Judy Kirk, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Troy & Novene Robertson, Whit Robertson, Brooks Russell, Lisa Russell, Sheila Thomas, John Todd, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Chris Windham, Andy Ulmer, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Perrin Drummond, Betty Lang, Miriam Styers, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris

Military List:

Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley



I've Learned...

That you do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 30.	Richard Adams
August 30.	Alyce Jennings
August 30.	Troy Robertson
September 01.	Michael Crotts
September 01.	Eli Reed
September 01.	Novene Robertson
September 03.	Bill DePriest
September 04.	Davis Dewberry

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 29. Larry & Janet Drummond



5TH SUNDAY AUGUST 30TH

Please join us Sunday August 30th, for our 5th Sunday potluck meal following our morning worship. The adult III class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building. Our evening service will begin at 1:15 and lead by our senior men. Please take this opportunity to invite someone to worship services and the fellowship meal.



AREA EVENTS

- East Main Church of Christ will have a Gospel Meeting Aug. 30-Sept. 2. Guest speaker will be *Adam Miller*. Weeknights at 7:00pm
- Homecoming and Gospel Meeting to be held at the Sherman Church of Christ Aug. 30-Sept. 2. The guest speaker will be *Marshall Eubanks*. Weeknights at 7:00pm.
- Hwy 178 Church of Christ invites you to their annual Ladies Day September 19th, beginning at 8:30am. This year's theme is "Woman in the Mirror: A Spiritual Reality" with guest speaker *Sister Ira Booker* of Shelbyville, TN.

**Christ Living in Me...
To Be Seen in 2015!**



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 Clayton.....252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Alvin Parks
A.M. Prayer.....Greg Clayton
Closing Prayer.....Steve Todd
P.M. PrayerMatt Jennings
ClosingBobby Marques
Wed.8/26.....Ray Kennedy
Wed.8/26.....Richard Jennings
Usher & LockGreg Clayton
Greeter.....T & N Robertson

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....110
Sunday A.M.....124
Sunday P. M.....101
Wednesday.....119
Contribution.....\$3,513.35
Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Canned Tuna

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COMPLAINTS

Never once did our Lord have a path free from trouble.

When He went into the wilderness He was temped of the Devil.

When he tried to rest, the multitudes followed Him.

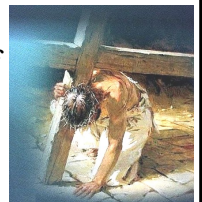
When he taught in the synagogue, the hearers became angry and sought to throw Him off the brow of the hill.

When He gave others rest for theirs souls, He had no place to lay His head.

When He sought peace in the garden, they came with swords and staves and led Him away to the halls of judgment.

When He did His best to be kind and loving in face of mockery, they took Him as a sheep to the slaughter and drenched Calvary with His precious blood. And yet, in spite of it all He never grumbled about His burden. Jesus did not complain at all! He just went about doing good. Let us be like Him! The busiest are the happiest.

Cheerful, active labor is a blessing. The busy, the active, the happy, the cheerful don't have time to complain.



"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputing: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:13-15