



THE INFORMER

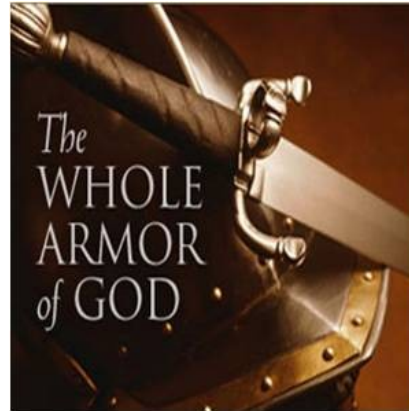
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

August 28, 2012

ESCAPING THE DEATH TRAP

Mike King



Failure to do good and fulfill our obligations to God can be credited to doubt and fueled by confusion, fear, lack of faith and a low self-esteem. It is a powerful negative for us to have no self-confidence as it is to disbelieve God. God's providing will not be used properly if we feel unworthy to receive it. Peter was doomed at the point his doubts took control. Jesus was displeased in him and said, "*O you of little faith, why did you doubt?*" (Matt. 14:31). When it came to faith, some of His disciples felt "anemic" and in need of increased faith (Lk. 17:5).

It is true that "Faith is the Victory" and God's only solution for surviving doubts and difficulties encountered in this faithless world. God cannot be pleased without our having faith in Him (Heb. 11:6). Faith carries with it an element of hope, although at the time the objective cannot be seen (Heb. 11:1). When the powerful Word is allowed to penetrate our thinking, we can then act upon it (Prov. 23:7). The Word of God charts a course that leads us to an abundance of faith (Rom. 10:17). Man's innermost needs for spiritual clarification, for growth, productive living and salvation on judgment's day, come through that Word (2 Pet. 1:3-8).

What do you desire and expect of your faith? Are we to acquire it to believe only? If that were the case then God would be excited about the devils for they do that much (Jas. 2:19-20).

Faith gives an air of optimism that abides with each of the faithful. There will be more of a willingness to "*launch out into the deep*" with service to God (Lk. 5:1-11). Moses came out of Egypt, Abraham pioneered new territory, Paul traversed the country being persecuted while preaching, and a whole generation that "*looked for a city with foundations whose builder and maker [was] God*" by faith (Heb. 11:10, 15).

Faith motivates us to search for opportunities to do good and open doors for service. Mary sought to do something nice for the Lord by pouring precious ointment on Him. She was rebuked by other disciples that felt her act a waste and that the ointment could be better used. The Lord called her gesture a "*good work on me*" (Matt. 26:6-10). Too many seek to be served than being spent. It indicates faithlessness.

Faith is the only avenue through which we can defeat the world. "*Satan is the prince of this world*" (Jn. 12:31). We must shield ourselves by faith for it alone can quench the fiery darts of that devil (Eph. 6:16).



PRAYER LIST

Jamie Clemmer, mother of *Andy Clemmer*, will have surgery on the nerves in her face on Wed., Sept. 5th at Baptist East Hospital, in Memphis. Please pray for her.

Dee Kepler, former member of this congregation, had knee replacement surgery last week at Germantown Methodist Hospital.

Chrystal Bickerstaff, daughter of *J. L. Eaton* is slowly improving from kidney surgery. She will have surgery again in Sept. to remove the stent.

Mary Frances Reid, fell Sun. afternoon and received cuts and bruises.

Continual Prayer

Johnny Garrett, Rosie Wilson, Betty Young, Tauso Branch, Jim Dickerson, Perrin Drummond, Harold Vaughn, Reva Parrish, Connie Phagan, Mary Alice Holloway, Roy Crow, Prebble Foster, Brooks Russell, Altha Rogers, Jack Dunlap, Tauso Branch, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Belle Cross

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Mattie Golden, Raymond & Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris

Military List:

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

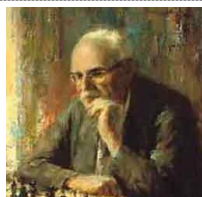


FALL QUARTER BEGINS

Sunday, September 2nd, we will begin a new quarter in our Bible classes. If you have not been attending Bible class, this Sunday will be a great time to start. See you Sunday!

"I BELIEVE"

...that the real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 30. Richard Adams
 August 30. Alyce Jennings
 August 30. Troy Robertson
 August 31. Rachel Peeler
 September 01. Michael Crotts
 September 01. Eli Reed
 September 01. Novene Robertson
 September 03. Bill DePriest
 September 07. Sarah Walker

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 01. Tony & Collett Cross



IT'S A GIRL!

We would like to welcome *Emerson Taylor Dewberry*, born late Thursday night, August 23, 2012. She weighed 7lbs. and was 20 and 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to proud parents, *Justin* and *Rebecca Dewberry*. *Rebecca* and *Emerson* are doing great and were able to go home Saturday.

THANK YOU

No words can really express how thankful we are for the huge acts of kindness shown to our family in the passing of Mother. The calls, visits, cards, flowers, food, and words of encouragement have been a huge blessing. We want to especially thank all the wonderful chefs that took the time to prepare a wonderful meal for our family. A special "thank you" goes out to *Greg Harrison* for doing such a good job leading the beautiful songs. Brother *Mike*, the comforting words you delivered were so calming then and will always be. Also, thanks for all the donations given to various organizations in Mother's memory. Mother loved this devoted congregation and always loved each and everyone of you. In Christian Love,

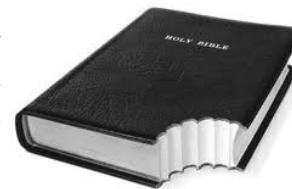
Yolaine and Yolanda and Family

*5th Wednesday night singing Aug. 29th @ 7.

* Sept. Calendars are on the table in the foyer.

HAVE WE LOST OUR APPETITE?

Picture, if you will, a boy around the age of fifteen who has not eaten in three or four days. He is standing at the front of a buffet line. There are mountains and mountains of food there for his taking. However, with a shrug of the shoulders and a wave of the hand, he bypasses the mashed potatoes, the gravy, the fried chicken, etc. In sheer amazement, you ask him about his health, about his emotional status. After all, he must be sick if he is not going to eat. His reasoning is puzzling, but simple; he is just not hungry. You could stand there for the next half hour and encourage this young man to eat by describing to him how delicious the food is. You might even explain that some have spent hours cooking so he could enjoy it. When that fails, you might warn him of the dangers of going any longer without eating. Still, unappreciative and uninterested, this young man who is suffering from malnourishment simply walks away because he is just not hungry. The truth is, you could talk to him for hours upon hours, but until he is hungry your talking will do no good.



Such is equally true of the spiritual food, which is laid before us in the Word of God. Job had developed an appetite for spiritual food that exceeded that for physical food: *“I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food”* (Job 23:12). Peter pictured the Christian as a newborn child who desperately needed God’s word for their very survival and growth (1Pet. 2:2). Christ pronounced heaven’s blessings on the man who hungers and thirsts after righteousness (Matt. 5:6; cf., Ps. 119:72).

As difficult as it is for us to imagine a teenage boy going three or four days without eating (most do not even go three or four hours), some go that long between spiritual meals every week. Sermons have been preached and articles (such as this one) have been written, tears have been shed, pleas have been made, and warnings have been issued, but some, with merely a shrug of the shoulders and a wave of the hand, walk away from the spiritual feast, which has been prepared for them. These feasts are prepared each Lord’s day and each midweek when preachers and teachers alike spend hours in planning their lessons. These feasts are prepared when the elders take the initiative and forethought to plan gospel meetings, lectureships, and seminars. Each of these events help to further the spiritual knowledge and satisfy the spiritual appetite of the local members. Bible Bowls, youth devotionals and such like events are also planned with this purpose in mind.

Sometimes we agonize and occupy our time with wondering what we can do to get more to attend Bible class, special events, and youth devotionals. Friends, simply put, if we are just not hungry there is no sermon, article or phone call that will correct that problem!

It could be that some have spoiled their appetites with the ‘junk food’ of the world. We may even begin to rationalize why we are not more interested in spiritual things. We may contend that time will not permit or that sporting events, work, and school activities are more important. The simple truth in all of the above listed conflicts is this—we desire to be involved in those things more than the things of God. Some of us are just not hungry! Have we elevated the feasting and digestion of God’s word to be more important than anything else? Or have we lost our appetite?

~ Wayne Jones, The Gospel Reminder



Difficulties Dissolved

The story is told of two Christians that had a disagreement. One heard that the other was talking about him derogatorily. Whereupon he went to him saying, “Will you be kind enough to tell me my faults, that I may profit by your Christian candor and strive to rid myself of them?”

“Yes,” replied the other, “I will do it.” They went aside, and the former said, “Before you commence telling what you believe is wrong with me, let us kneel and pray that my eyes may be opened to see my faults as you reveal them to me. Will you lead in the prayer?” When the prayer was over, the man who had sought the interview said, “Now proceed with what you have noted disparagingly in my conduct.” But the other answered, “After praying over it, it looks so little that it is not worth talking about. I realize now that by going around and talking about you, I have been serving the devil myself, and have need that you pray for me and forgive me the wrong I have done you.” The disagreement was dissolved from that hour.

Author unknown

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	126
Sunday A.M.....	154
Sunday P.M.....	116
Wednesday.....	106
Contribution.....	\$3,966.73
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Dillon Clayton
A.M. Prayer.....	Dalton Beard
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	Jerry Gibson
Closing.....	Ruston Adams
Wed 9/5.....	Andy Clemmer
Wed. 9/5.....	Shane Crotts
Usher & Lock.....	Andy Clemmer
Greeter.....	T & N Robertson



PANTRY ITEM

Canned Fruit

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

MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2012

SOUND

ROOM Richard Adams

LEAD

SINGING

SUN AM: Richard Jennings

SUN PM: Dalton Beard

WED: Greg Harrison

LORD'S

SUPPER

N Head: Greg Clayton

N Help I: David Clayton

N Help II: Clay Ormon

SUNDAY

PRAYERS

A.M.

Opening

Closing

1ST Dalton Beard

2ND J.L. Eaton

3RD Jason Jennings

4TH Troy Robertson

5TH Harold Russell

Olen Clark

Dan Cobb

Jason McCullough

Roger Clayton

Terry Stubblefield

S Head: Bill Botts

S Help I: Bill Frohn

S Help II: Alvin Parks

SCRIPTURE

READING

Dillon Clayton

Daniel Drummond

Drew Drummond

Anderson Parks

Tyler Weaver

SUNDAY

PRAYERS

PM

Opening

Closing

1ST Jerry Gibson

2ND Greg Harrison

3RD Perry Jones

4TH Steve Todd

5TH Mark Jennings

Ruston Adams

Ronnie Griggs

Bill Lyon

Bobby Marques

Paul Ormon

USHER & LOCK

Andy Clemmer

Harold Russell

Randy Wall

Bill Botts

Lonnie Weaver

WED

PRAYERS

Opening

Closing

1ST Andy Clemmer

2ND Richard Jennings

3RD Ray Kennedy

4TH Gary Turner

5TH

Shane Crotts

Harold Crowe

Matt Jennings

Randy Wall

GREETERS

T & N Robertson

B & A Pounders

G & K Clayton

L & N Weaver

H & D Crowe

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