

# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

August 30, 2016

## Wresting the Scriptures

Mike King



The term “wrest” is seldom used in our vocabulary today, but was familiar to those who lived prior to and during the time of the early church. Moses first wrote about it when encouraging the people to not “wrest judgment” (Ex. 23:2, 6; Deut. 16:19). The word means to “distort, pervert, stretch out, turn aside or away” (Young’s).

David’s use of it caught my attention. As a spokesman for God, David was frustrated because he was honoring God’s Word, but his people refused to do so. He lamented, *“In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil”* (Ps. 56:4-5).

Peter referenced Paul when he said, *“As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”* (2 Pet. 3:16). It just so happens that Peter had been writing about the coming of the Lord and how everything was going to be burned. It appears they changed the threatening message.

We are to start a new football season in the very near future. I see some similarities, simplistically speaking, between the Word of God and a football. Everyone is concerned about the safety and comfort of the players, but the ball also is subjected to rain, snow and abuse. Everyone is after it, wanting to grab, kick, throw, fall on or abuse it in some other way. Actually, it is not the ball they want, but personal gain that comes through having the ball. Without it in the player’s possession, they cannot advance, no first-down is realized and certainly no touch-down made. After the touch-down is made, they throw the ball down for it has served its purpose and given them personal gain. They are not particular about how it is used; they hide it, use it deceptively in a fake play or hold on to it selfishly.

There are those who use the Scriptures for personal gain. It is used to win arguments for arguments sake. Often, it is used to justify an ungodly behavior by manipulating it (fake play) or “wresting” it to conform to their needs and wants, to make personal gain or to advance their cause. When finished with it, they dispose of it. When not willing to defend it or have it in their possession because of it attracting attention, they “hand it off” to rid themselves of it. We must carry the Word with pride, forthrightness and objectivity!

## THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2016

**Announcements:** Harold Russell  
**Sound Room:** Randy Wall  
**Usher:** Justin Dewberry

**Lead Singing:** Sun. A.M.: Greg Harrison  
 Sun. P.M.: Richard Jennings  
 Wed.: Youth

### Sunday Prayers:

Sept. 04:  
 A.M. Steve Todd  
 Terry Stubblefield  
 P.M. Richard Adams  
 Ruston Adams

Sept. 11:  
 A.M. Phillip Young  
 Thomas Wall  
 P.M. Dalton Beard  
 Dillon Clayton

Sept. 18  
 A.M. Phil Young  
 Terry Young  
 P.M. Olen Clark  
 Andy Clemmer

Sept. 25  
 A.M. Lonnie Weaver  
 Greg Clayton  
 P.M. Jim Gann  
 Perry Jones

### Lord's Supper:

North Head: Tim Dye	South Head: Jason Jennings
North Helper I: Hunter Jennings	South Helper I: Tyler Weaver
North Helper II: Bobby Marques	South Helper II: Caleb Jennings

### Scripture Reading:

Sept. 04 — David Clayton  
 Sept. 11 — Michael Crotts  
 Sept. 18 — Dean Dillard  
 Sept. 25 — Paul Ormon

### Wednesday Prayers:

Sept. 09 — Dan Cobb; Roger Clayton  
 Sept. 14 — Harold Crowe; Shane Crotts  
 Sept. 21 — Mark Jennings; Jerry Grimmett  
 Sept. 28 — Matt Jennings; Alvin Parks

### Prepare Communion:

Jessica Garrett

### Usher & Lock:

Sept. 04 — Roger Clayton  
 Sept. 11 — Brad Pounders  
 Sept. 18 — Randy Wall  
 Sept. 25 — Lonnie Weaver

### Host Youth Devo:

Chris & Callie Smithey



## Which Ones Have You Encouraged?

The Lord's church is composed of both strong and weak members. Each one needs encouragement at times, but certainly the weaker brethren need a greater amount of special attention. Also, there are some members who are not necessarily weak, but who have special physical problems, causing them to need special attention. The apostle Paul taught that the responsibility of helping the weaker members rested upon the shoulders of those who were mature, full-grown Christians (Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:1-2). In the minds of some, this type of responsibility is the work of the elders, deacons, or preachers. Indeed it is; but the instruction is given to all Christians. Sometimes elders and preachers are negligent. Sometimes there is simply more work to be done than a limited number of men can accomplish. Which ones have you encouraged?

### Some Members Are Forsaking the Assembling of the Saints

This sign of weakness is obvious to any mature Christian. It takes no special training or skills to make a phone call, write a note, or drop by for a short visit to say, "I've missed you." Would it be presumptuous to say almost all Christians could render service in this area?

### Some Members Are Attending Without the Support (Perhaps With the Hindrance) Of Their Spouse

A mother rises early on Sunday morning to prepare breakfast and dress the children to get them to Bible class; and they leave home with the father still in bed. Sometimes the fathers have the same problem, leaving the mother at home. All recognize the special problems faced by such parents, admire their effort, and are encouraged by their faithful attendance under less than ideal circumstances. Are we not obliged to reciprocate some type of encouragement to these faithful parents?

### Some Members Are Presently Experiencing Family Problems

There are parents who are struggling with a rebellious child. There are married couples who are experiencing serious problems, perhaps resulting from an immature spiritual life. There are adults who have aging parents who are sick or confined, and demand much of their time and attention. In many cases, an encouraging word may be all that can be offered. Who offers it?

### Some Members Are Facing Problems Associated With Aging

The elderly and widows find it more and more difficult to do the basics, such as driving to services, shopping at the market, visiting with others, etc. Many live alone, without the encouragement or support of a faithful companion. Encouragement may be extended both verbally and actively.

This list could go on and on, but the initial question would remain the same, namely, "Which ones have you encouraged?" As the members of a congregation consider one another, the opportunities to serve are abundant. Christians may avoid the question for the present, but one day all will stand and give an answer.

By: David Thomley

PRAYER LIST



Jean Rogers Simmons began chemo treatments this past week.

Bill Lyon is slowly improving and has begun therapy to help with his dizziness.

Quincy Byles a member of the Verona congregation is suffering with many medical problems.

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 & Chase Seals



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- September 01...Michael Crotts
September 01...Eli Reed
September 03...Bill DePriest (92)
September 04...Davis Dewberry
September 07...Sarah Walker
September 09...Jerry Gibson
September 09...Allyssa Dunn
September 10...Nicki Weaver

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- September 14... Jerry & Eleta Grimmert



SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

- Elders/Deacons/Preacher meeting Sept. 4th, at 5pm.
Elders will meet @ 7:00pm, Sept. 6th.
Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held at the Verona church of Christ, Sept. 11th.
Junior Bible Bowl will be held Sept. 18th, at the Mayfield church of Christ, at 2:00pm.
3rd Sun. night fellowship will be Sept. 18th. The young adult class will be hosting.
A quilt show is scheduled Sept. 23-24th at the fellowship building. Eleta Grimmert will be hosting. Everyone is invited.
Deacons' will meet Sept. 25th, at 5:00pm
Visitation meeting at 6:30, Sept. 27th, for the elders', deacons' and minister.

AREA EVENTS

- Freed-Hardeman University RUSH 2016 will be held Sept.16-18. Please check the bulletin board for more details.
Area Wide Gospel Meeting to be held at the South Panola Junior High School Auditorium Sept. 19-21, 2016. The guest speaker will be Wade Webster. It is being hosted by area churches of Christ. Time:7pm

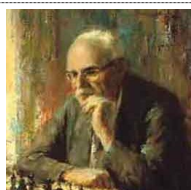
BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. How many prophets of Baal did Elijah put to death?
2. Who was King of Israel when Elijah was a Prophet?
3. Why did Elijah flee to Mount Horeb?
4. Who was the prophet that took over for Elijah?



I've Learned...

"Humility: that one Christ-like virtue that when you are certain you have achieved it, you lost it."



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



**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 Jennings .....316-1305  
Troy Robertson .....316-3163

**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.....David Clayton  
A.M. Prayer.....Steve Todd  
Closing Prayer...T. Stubblefield  
P.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams  
Closing .....Ruston Adams  
Wed.9/7.....Dan Cobb  
Wed.9/7.....Roger Clayton  
Usher & Lock.....Roger Clayton

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School.....107  
Sunday A.M.....157  
Sunday P. M.....103  
Wednesday.....91  
Contribution.....4,673.25  
Budget.....\$4,037.54



**PANTRY ITEMS**

Pantry Full

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Volume 32

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)  
Church of Christ  
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148  
New Albany, Mississippi 38652  
(662)534-4649

Periodical  
Postage Paid  
New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box  
148, New Albany, MS 38652

**The Importance of One**

A young man walking along the beach at dawn noticed an old man picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. It was obvious he was rescuing the starfish before they were baked by the summer sun.

“Old man, this is a big beach with hundreds of these starfish,” the young man said sarcastically. “How can your efforts make any difference?”



The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. “It makes a difference to this one,” he replied.

Christians should be concerned about the lost souls in this world. While there are innumerable people who are lost, the task of saving everyone of them seems impossible, but that is no excuse for failure to try and save them from eternal perdition. Just like the old man and the concern he had for starfish, we all can begin with just one.

Begin today - tomorrow may not come.

*“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Matt. 16:26