

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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September 17, 2013

Chipping Away At The Mountain

Mike King



Alan Smith tells of an ancient Chinese parable of Old Tan Chang who had a small farm overshadowed by a huge mountain. One day he got the notion to get rid of the mountain. He utilized the efforts of his wife and sons to begin to hack at the rock around its base. A neighbor walked by and scoffed, “You will never finish the job, old man! There are not enough days in the year for you to do this.”

Tan replied confidently, “I am not as foolish as you think, my friend. I may be old and feeble, but after I am gone, my sons will continue to peck away at the mountain. Then their sons’ and their sons’ sons’ will do the same. Since the mountain cannot grow, someday it will be level with the ground, and the sun will shine upon the land.”

Even a cursory study of the Bible will reveal that God’s work often requires centuries with representatives from each generation doing a little bit more until finally God’s mission is accomplished. We learn from Scripture that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all received promises from God, but those promises were not all fulfilled in their generation. They “pecked away” at the mountain one stroke at a time, and later generations received the blessings.

Unfortunately, we are blighted by living in an “instant culture.” There are instant drinks, instant messengers, and a host of products marketed having instant results. We try to crowd God into our scheme of instantaneous living. We pray to God expecting results within the hour. There are great things to be achieved simply by laying a ground-work upon which succeeding generations can build. We are always impressed by someone in their late 80’s or early 90’s planting fruit trees from which they fully realize they will not be beneficiaries.

There were scores of people that came from the loins of Sarah, the lady of promise. “They all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Heb. 11:12-13). The entire book of Hebrews speaks of people not receiving the promises of God during their life-time, but they labored for future generations. God’s blessings are so numerous that some will be enjoyed here and now, but others will be realized by unborn generations. We are running a great relay race against time and Satan. Each runs, each is responsible, and each shares the trophy!

FORGOTTEN BY GOD?

A pious man who had reached the age of 105 suddenly stopped going to synagogue. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance the Rabbi went to see him. He found him in excellent health, so the Rabbi asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man looked around and lowered his voice. "I'll tell you, Rabbi," he whispered. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So I figured that God is very busy and must have forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!"

Two thoughts come to mind: (1) We don't need to worry about (or hope for) God getting busy and forgetting about us. That will never happen! "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5).

(2) We don't go worship so that God won't forget about us; we go so that we won't forget about God! We need the constant reminder that comes from the encouragement we give one another in our assembly.

In Psalm 73, the psalmist Asaph expressed the struggle that he had with his faith. He expected that good things would happen to those who are good and that bad things would happen to those who are evil, but when he looked around, that's not what he saw. He saw evil people prospering and righteous people suffering. It seemed that God had forgotten him. "It was too painful for me -- until I went to the sanctuary of God...It is good for me to draw near to God" (Psalm 73:16-17,28).

If you think that missing worship will help you to "hide" from God, don't be fooled. But if you're having trouble seeing God in your life, worship may be the place you need to be to find Him once again!

~ Alan Smith; Helen Street Church of Christ ~ Fayetteville, North Carolina

YOUTH NEWS

- Congratulations to our Senior Bible Bowl group for taking first place in the first competition of the season! We are so proud of you.
- Congratulations to *Jamie Crow* for receiving the National Merit Semi Finalist Award.
- The Junior Bible Bowl will meet Sat., Sept. 28th at the Mayfield congregation.
- A party for the 6th grade and under will be held at the home of *Sarah Walker* Saturday, Sept. 21st, from 4-7pm. Sign the list if you plan to attend.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held Sun. night, Sept. 22nd following the evening service. The boys are asked to bring drinks and the girls chips. *Richard & Kathy Jennings* and *Roger & Kathy Clayton* will be hosting.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" Ecclesiastes 12:1

Doing My Part

God didn't put me on this earth to
have an easy time.
He put me here to fight a fight, to
hold a battle line.
He put me here to help the weak
and myself grow strong.
He put me here to say a word of
encouragement and cheer;
He put me here to sing a song
for someone else to hear.
He didn't put me here to whine,
stick out my lips and pout,
He put me here to do His work
and Satan's evil rout.
He didn't put me here to seek rewards
and starry crowns,
He put me here to do my part and see
that love abounds.
So, I'll just seek to do my part as I
travel through these lands,
And I will strive to do His will
and leave all in His hands.





PRAYER LIST

Harold Crowe is in room 3327 of the Tupelo Hospital. He is recovering from double pneumonia and will have a heart cath this week.

Dixie White, is in room 3318 of the Tupelo Hospital. She had a heart cath Monday, and the results were clear. She does have an infection in her bronchial tract and lungs.

Bill DePriest is in room 244 of the Oxford Hospital recovering from surgery. He hopes to be released in a few days.

Frank Mills, father of *Patty Jacks* is in a FL. Hospital with pneumonia and an infection in his brain. *Patty's* step-mother, **Caroline Mills** is also in the hospital with heart problems.

Nancy Petrowski, daughter of *Harold* and *Deloris Crowe* is continuing chemo treatments this week in Tupelo.

Continual Prayer :

Lisa Norris, Ernestine McKinney, Lashon Mitchell, Steve Stokes, Myka Wise, Darrell Crow, Martha Collins, Luther Williams, Ken Joines, Polly Sago, Mayola Holley, Justin Forsyth, Kelly Fryar, Nancy Petrowski, Ruth Ann Stroud, J.V. Davis, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jack Dunlap, Rosie Wilson, Prebble Foster, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

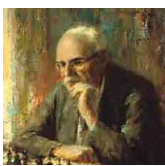
Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn

Military List:

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

Wise Thoughts

If we are together nothing is impossible.
If we are divided all will fail.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September 20..... Patty Jacks
September 22..... Tauso Branch
September 22..... Jonathan Clayton
September 23..... Helen DePriest
September 28..... Perrin Drummond
September 30..... Victoria Botts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 24..... Lonnie & Nicki Weaver



WORK DAY

A work day has been scheduled for Sat., Sept. 21st at 8:00am. All men are encouraged to be present. There are a variety of projects around the building that are in need of attention. Please make every effort to come and help!

PINE VALE'S FALL FOOD DRIVE

It's time for the annual Fall Panty Drive for Pine Vale Children's Home in Corinth. They have requested that our congregation provide; broths, (chicken and beef) or bul-lion cubes; ranch dressing; cooking oil or Pam type spray. These items will be picked up the week of Oct. 21st. A container will be placed in the foyer for these needed items.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Sept. 29th; 5th Sunday Services. A potluck meal will follow the morning service. Our afternoon services will be at 1:15 and led by the Elders.
- Our Wednesday night fall lectures will begin Oct. 2nd. with guest speaker, *Dr. Sammy Jones*; Oct. 9 *Dr. Kevin Moore*; Oct. 16, *Donnie DeBord* and Oct. 30, *Philip Hines*. Oct. 23 we will have congregational singing. Mark your calendars!

MARY & MARTHA CLASS

The ladies M& M class will meet at 9:00am Thurs., Sept. 26th in the annex building. All ladies invited.

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 Jennings534-6671
Troy Robertson534-3491

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.....Drew Drummond
A.M. Prayer.....Paul Ormon
Closing Prayer.....Josh George
P.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
Closing.....Bill Lyon
Wed.9/25.....Jerry Gibson
Wed.9/25.....Bobby Marques
Usher & Lock....Roger Clayton
Greeter.....G & Km Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....119
Sunday A.M.....150
Sunday P.M108
Wednesday.....119
Contribution.....\$3,925.32
Budget.....\$3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM

Juice

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I'm In Debt

Solomon said: *"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine"* (Prov. 3:9-10). Get it? We should all recognize that we're in debt to God. Without Him we have nothing. It's really just a matter of priorities.

I read the story recently about a "football widow." She finally reached the end of her rope and burst out in frustration with her husband and said, "You would probably miss my funeral to go to a stupid ball game!" The husband looked at her in disbelief and asked, "What made you think I'd schedule your funeral on the day of a game?" Life is a matter of priorities.

We own absolutely nothing and are simply stewards of what is in our possession. If we can get hold of this, then we'll never have a problem with how much we give back to God on the Lord's Day--or any other day for that matter. Add to that, it will never be in issue of how I make use of my life and talents—all to the glory of God.

~ Neil Richey

