



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

September 6, 2016

We Need To Take Heed

Mike King



The apostle Paul was a tremendous mentor while sharing in the ministry of Christ with Timothy, Titus, Silas, John Mark, and others. This writer can appreciate his role after having spent the past several summers working with summer interns. A powerful verse of advice is found in 1 Tim. 4:16, *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”* Note two aspects of his advice:

He charged Timothy to *“take heed to yourself.”* The Bible is replete with passages of caution concerning self, whether young or old. The Romans were instructed to *“...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly”* (Rom. 12:3). Jesus illustrated the danger of this with His example of the Pharisee and a tax collector. One was justified, the other was not (Lk. 18:10-14). One deceived himself when thinking too highly of himself (Gal. 6:3-7). We can do so by saying that we have no sin (1 Jn. 1:8). From that sin, we are to put forth effort to save ourselves. It is so easy to delegate all of our soul related responsibilities to Christ and fail to realize that we too contribute to our salvation (Acts 2:40). This will necessitate denial of self if we are to follow Jesus and be a disciple of His (Mt. 16:24-26). A part of denial is discipline. We are to discipline our body in order to bring it into subjection. It is a given that the mind be disciplined before controlling the body (1 Cor. 9:27) and remain unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27).

Secondly he charged Timothy to *“take heed...to the doctrine”* (1 Tim. 4:16). One is to do so by keeping the doctrine pure (Titus 2:7-8). This can be managed by not adding or subtracting from the Word (Gal. 1:7-8; Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Cor. 4:6). The adequate response to doctrine is to obey and teach others to as well for it to be profitable (Rom. 6:17-18). The Hebrew writer cautioned his readers to *“give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”* (Heb. 2:1-3). To keep our minds free of doctrinal perversion we are warned to avoid false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1-6; Mt. 15:9). On a positive note, we are to adorn the doctrine by making it more attractive by our lifestyle (Titus 2:10). We are to abide in it (2 Jn. 9-10) as we study it (2 Tim. 2:15) and never cease teaching it (2 Tim. 2:2).

In doing the above, *“you will save both yourselves and those who hear you”* (2 Tim. 4:16).

7 THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY

1 - LIVE and WORK to reach others each day as if you knew the world were going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (*Read 2 Peter 3:1-12*).

2 - BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC about the church and its services as you would be if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!

3 - COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (*Philippians 4:6*). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (*Acts 17:24-25,28; John 15:5*).

4 - MAKE & MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS. And pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (*James 5:16; Galatians 6:1*).

5 - KEEP A QUIET TIME. Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game, you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him. (*Psalms 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1*). First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (*Acts 13:1*).

6 - VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK. Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.

7 - REACH ANOTHER PERSON (RAP). Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to (*Matt. 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3*). There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sundays and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158. ~ by the late Grover Stevens

Essential Church Members

In every healthy congregation you will find certain people that comprise the essential "heart and soul" of the church. Note . . . -- They are always present at the assemblies. They make it a point to never miss any of the services. If it is necessary to make changes, adjust schedules, suffer inconvenience or simply miss out on other activities, they will do so because they are committed to being present every time the doors are open.

-- These folks actually look for opportunities to serve. If there is work to be done, Bible classes to be taught, weak members to be encouraged, sick folks to be visited, menial chores to be fulfilled, they will step up and get the job done. They are not waiting to be told what to do. Instead they are searching for more and more that can be accomplished.

-- In matters of personal purity and morality, these people are setting a worthy example. They don't look for "loopholes" to justify untoward behavior. Rather they "go the extra mile" to make sure that there is not even an "appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). In the clothes they wear, the language they use, the places they go, the movies and TV they watch, these brethren are determined to do the right thing.

-- Most surveys indicate that 80% of what is contributed in any church comes from about 20% of the membership. The kind of people we're describing here are among that 20%. They are truly sacrificial in their giving.

-- When conflicts arise in the church, these people can be counted on to help make resolution. They are not the sort to get their feelings hurt easily. Instead, they work hard to address situations that -- unheeded -- could lead to serious division. They stand firmly and without compromise for the truth, they love their brethren, and they care about the church.

More could be said, but the picture is pretty clear. Local churches depend on these members. In fact, without them a congregation will never prosper. Now, the simple question is: Are you one of these 'essential' church members? Think!

~ by Greg Gwin

PRAYER LIST



Becky Cargile, former member of the New Albany congregation, has been diagnosed with stage 2 ovarian cancer. She will begin chemo in a few weeks.

James Allen Johnston, a 16 year old member of the Ripley Church of Christ is being treated at Le Bonheur for a kidney blockage.

Neil Robertson, son of Troy & Novene Robertson, is scheduled to have knee surgery Wed. Sept. 7th, in Nashville.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Quincy Byles, 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, Bill Lyon, Perry Lepard, 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:

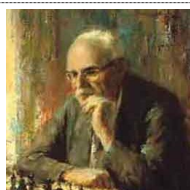
Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

- 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. Please bring snack foods.
A quilt show is scheduled Sept. 23-24th at the fellowship building. Eleta Grimmitt will be hosting. Everyone is invited.
Deacons' will meet Sept. 25th, at 5:00pm

I've Learned...

You can praise God so much more in the sunshine if you have practiced praising Him in the rain.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- September 09... Jerry Gibson
September 09... Allyssa Dunn
September 10... Nicki Weaver
September 13... Grayden Dunn
September 13... Gloria Jones
September 15... Jim Gann
September 16... Ryleigh Garrett
September 17... Dalton Beard

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- September 14... Jerry & Eleta Grimmitt
September 17... Steve & Lana Todd



MEN'S WORKDAY



A men's workday is scheduled for Sat. Sept. 17th, at 8:00am. Donuts and coffee will be served at 7:00am. Please mark this day on your calendar and plan on helping with the work. There are many things that are in need of attention around the fellowship building and church building.

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
A Gospel Meeting will be held Sept. 18-21 at the East Main Church of Christ with Robbie Eversole of Summerville, GA, as the guest speaker.
A Christian Evidences Class will be held at the East Main Church of Christ in Tupelo every Mon. night, Sept. 12th—Nov. 7th. Chad Ramsey will be teaching this class. Check the bulletin board for more details.

"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.....Michael Crotts
A.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young
Closing Prayer.....Thomas Wall
P.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams
ClosingRuston Adams
Wed.9/14.....Harold Crowe
Wed.9/14.....Shane Crotts
Usher & Lock.....Brad Pounders

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
Sunday A.M.....
Sunday P. M.....
Wednesday.....
Contribution.....
Budget.....\$4,037.54



PANTRY ITEMS

Pantry Full

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If Only

I guess I just couldn't tell.
If anyone had asked me
I would have said, "They're doing well!"
When did the flame start to flicker
And the enthusiasm fade away?
I guess I just didn't see it.
I didn't know what to say.
At first it was just occasionally,
They didn't miss all the time.
A child was sick, or he had to work,
I still thought everything was fine.
After a while it got more frequent,
Their seat was empty more than not.
I should have said something then,
But that would have put me on the spot.
If only I had noticed.
If only I had tried.
I didn't do a thing to help them.
That's the truth, it cannot be denied.
Now their seat is always empty.
They have left the Lord, I don't know why.
And when I think about "If only..."
All I can do is cry.

Greg Litmer