



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

February 18, 2020

Right Attitudes for Faithfulness

by Warren Berkley

It is clear to every Bible student, you cannot be faithful to the Lord if your attitude is not in keeping with the teachings of Christ (Phil. 2:5; Col. 3:17). Attitude has to do with the content of your mind, your disposition and the control you exercise over your emotions.

The simple truth is, the New Testament is loaded with teaching, examples, prohibitions and warnings about attitude. This spiritually healthy instruction should be the basis of our discipline over our mind. Your attitude toward God is basic. All other phases of attitude are rooted in your attitude toward God. We must hold Him in the highest esteem, revere Him, worship Him and obey Him with wholehearted love and trust (Eccl. 5:1,2; Matt. 22:37; Rom. 12:1,2; Prov. 1:7).

Once your attitude toward God begins to weaken, all other phases of attitude will likely deteriorate. Let us be aware of this and constantly monitor our attitude toward God, seeking to enrich our relationship with Him.

Your attitude toward Christ is a component of your attitude toward God. If God is your father, you will love His Son (Jno. 8:42). If you love God and want to obey Him, you will have a favorable and grateful acceptance of His Son, Jesus Christ. You will regard Him as the perfect expression of deity and humanity, the spotless Son of God who died in order for you to be free from sin and enjoy eternal life. Likewise, you will read and study about His attitude with the highest esteem, seeking to imitate Him in all your behavior.

Your attitude toward others develops out of your reverence for Deity. If you believe in God and follow His Son, your behavior toward others will be based on that. You will seek to do all God has said about how to treat people. You will study and follow the compassion of Christ, as well as His boldness in seeking to save the lost. His relationship to others becomes your pattern (see 1 Pet. 2:18-25). Your attitude toward other members of God's family will be suitable, in keeping with all that is written about such relationships. Peter teaches God's people to *"love one another fervently with a pure heart,"* (1 Pet. 1:22), and John taught extensively that *"we should love one another,"* (1 John 3:11). *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you,"* (Eph. 4:32).

Our attitude must endeavor to follow the pattern of unselfish humility demonstrated by our Lord (Phil. 2:1-5). Your attitude toward sin will be fitting. To remain right with God, it is necessary to maintain an abhorrence of sin (Rom. 12:9). If you court the favor of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God (Jas. 4:4). It is essential to arm yourself with "the same mind" or attitude Jesus had against sin and error (1 Pet. 4:10).

Your attitude toward life should be realistic and godly, not bitter and angry. If you murmur and complain about your life, and this becomes your habitual attitude - you cannot be what you should be! And when you get to this low state, you need to stop and recognize that the devil has seduced and maneuvered you into this state of constant anger and resentment. While you remain in this mood you cannot develop the love described in 1 Cor. 13:4-7, and you cannot grow and taste the kindness of the Lord (1 Pet. 2:1-3).

In the "beatitudes" (Matt. 5:3-12), the Lord addresses every phase or direction of attitude: Your attitude toward God (poor in spirit & hungering and thirsting after righteousness), your attitude toward yourself (meek), your attitude toward others (merciful), your attitude toward those who oppose you (vss. 10-13), and your attitude toward sin (mourn and purity in heart). Growth and faithfulness depends upon the constant development of these qualities.

Exceeding Minimum Requirements

After teaching two years in the L.A. area, I obtained a position on the central coast school district of 12,000. I was welcomed by the superintendent who immediately had me report to my new school's principal. Arriving on campus, I found the school's leader, not behind a desk, but on the playground. He had on old work clothes, was covered in dirt and wind-blown dust (as opposed to my coat and tie), chopping weeds. After introductions, he asked if I was ready to go to work. I eagerly let him know I was all set to work, and he handed me a hoe! It was a lesson I've remembered for 63 years.



Too many are asking, "What is the least I can do and remain in God's good graces?" rather than taking opportunity to maximize their faith and enthusiasm. Merely "going by the book" was seen by the principal as a minimal action. He wanted more from me for the next eight years.

Jesus repeatedly defined our service, as in Luke 6:32-35, where He stated, "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? But love your enemies and do good, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High." Jesus greets us with His hand stretched out, holding a hoe, asking that in our following we serve Him. His "follow me" is "do as I do, and more as needed." Jesus, as a principal, does not want "by the numbers" followers. He leads by example; so must we. And my share of those weeds? They were tackled relentlessly and with enthusiasm, side by side with the leader. May my worship, as is yours, be filled with an awe inspired enthusiasm, always attempting what is asked for . . . and more.

~ Gordon V. Herrmann (deceased; Santa Maria, CA) ~

Not Yet!

A stranger drove into town, pulled up to the curb where an old timer sat, and inquired, "lived here all your life?" The old fellow didn't even look up from his whittling as he nonchalantly replied, "Not yet." If you are reading this, you have "not yet" lived all your life. Be sure to include God in your plans for the rest of it (James 4:13-15).

~ Edward L. Anderson

Bible Riddles

1. My daughter died while Jesus was on the way to his house to heal her. What is my name? _____ Mk. 5:22
2. My wife named her baby Ichabod. What is my name? _____ I Sam. 4:19-22
3. Naomi became nurse to me. What is my name? _____ Ruth 4:16-17



Are you really a faithful Christian?

We should not be surprised when we hear people claim they are faithful Christians regardless of their personal conduct. In the four gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), Jesus encountered many Pharisees and other religious people who claimed to have God's approval. Like when Jesus asked, "**Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?**" (Luke 6:46).

Jesus knew that they called Him Lord because they thought that would be enough. This is precisely what many religious people do today. They say, "I believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptized for the remission of my sins" but they do not worship God with His people, nor do they worship His way (Heb. 10:25; John 4:24).

In order to truly be a faithful Christian, one must walk in the light (I John 1:7). This does not mean we just walk around and say "God knows my heart." If we are knowingly committing sin, God knows that our heart is not right (Acts 8:21). Just because we know that something is wrong does not mean we are automatically forgiven. As Jesus said, "**Unless you repent you will all likewise perish,**" (Luke 13:3).

James had something to add when he wrote, "**Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin,**" (James 4:17). Just as sin is held against us even if we know an activity is wrong, we will also be held accountable for the good works we knew we should do but did not. In both cases, God knows their heart. This just means that they need to repent and turn back to the Lord.

People have a knack for justifying not doing what the Lord demands. They tweak things to fit into what they personally want to do. This is nothing more than selfish living. To learn what Jesus thinks of that kind of thinking, just read Matthew 23.

~ Chuck Bartlett

PRAYER LIST



Bill DePriest is in room 14 of New Albany Health Care Center on Glenfield Rd, under-going rehab.

Molly Clayton, had an appointment last week at Le Bonheur which narrowed down several possible issues that have been causing her stomach pain. She will return in mid April for an endoscopy.

Bill Lyon has not been feeling well and unable to be out and about.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Daniel Cross, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Cynthia White, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

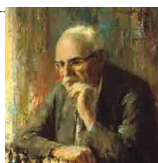
Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Lads to Leaders practice each Sun. at 5:00.
- The Senior Group will go the Ecu Fish and Steak House Friday, Feb. 21st.
- We will have guest speaker *Andy Ulmer* with us Sun. Feb. 23rd, for both services.
- Deacons meeting Feb. 23rd, at 5:00pm.
- This month's youth devo will be held Feb. 23rd following evening services. *Mark & Alyce Jennings* will be hosting. Girls are asked to bring desserts and boys drinks.
- NAYPE will meet following Wed. night services Feb. 26.
- CYC in Pigeon Forge TN, is Feb. 29th-March 1st.

I've Learned...

"One who knows how to show and to accept kindness will be a friend better than any possession."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 19.....Barbara Crotts
February 22..... Jennie Bell
February 28..... Brian Carpenter



THANK YOU NOTE

We would like to say "Thanks" to everyone for your prayers and we still need them. We are improving. All of you are special to us and we appreciate you so much.

In Christian Love,
Arelus & Ernestine Dye

SENIOR GROUP

The Senior group will be going to Ecu Fish and Steak for supper Fri. Feb. 21st. They are asked to be at the building at 4:45. If you would like to join them please sign the list in the foyer.



CARE GROUP 1 TO MEET



Care group 1 (*Kurt & Dane's* group) will meet Sun. March 8th, following morning services for a meal and to discuss their trip to Pine Vale, Sat. March 14th. You are asked to bring soup, sandwiches and finger foods. They will be delivering fresh vegetables and meats to the Children's Home.

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

We are so proud of our young people who participated in the Junior Bible Bowl Sunday. They answered all their questions correctly and said their memory verses! Thanks to our parents for teaching their children the importance of learning God's Word. Keep up the good work.

AREA EVENTS

- The Ripley Church of Christ has scheduled 'Our Christ is King Lectureship' for Feb. 23-26. The guest speakers are the second year students from Memphis School of Preaching. The topic will be "The Fruits of the Spirit".



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

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Volume 07

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Paul Ormon
 A.M. Prayer.....Roger Clayton
 Closing.....Jim Gann
 P.M. Prayer.....Tim Dye
 Closing.....Jason Jennings
 Wed.2/26.....Perry Jones
 Wed.2/26.....Mark Jennings
 Lock 2/23.....Steve Todd
 Usher 2/23.....Roger Clayton
 Security 2/23.....Jason Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....92
 Sunday A.M.....120
 Sunday P.M.....86
 Wednesday.....53
 Contribution.....\$2,878.90
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS

TOMATO SAUCE



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Wise Ways To Live Without Regrets

- Compliment at least three people every day.
- Watch a sunrise at least once a week.
- Be the first to say, "Hello."
- Live beneath our means.
- Treat everyone like we want to be treated.
- Never give up on anyone – they can change!
- Forget the Joneses!
- Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has.
- Pray not for "things", but for wisdom and courage.
- Be tough minded but tenderhearted.
- Be kinder than necessary.
- Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
- "Keep" our promises!
- Learn to show cheerfulness, even when we don't feel like it.
- Remember that overnight success usually takes about fifteen years!
- Leave everything better than we found it.
- Remember that winners "do" what losers don't want to do!
- When we arrive at our job in the morning, let the first thing we say brighten everyone's day.
- Don't "rain" on other people's parades!
- Never waste an opportunity to tell someone we love them.
- Give God "first place" in our life (Matthew 6:33). ~ Mike Riley