



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

March 3, 2020

Barbs... With a Point

The following barbs of wisdom come from the current The Sword and Staff publication, 2010, Vol. 48, No. 1, pg. 13 (appropriate Scriptures and related articles have been added):

- There is nothing stingy about Christianity, and we shouldn't be stingy with our Christianity (cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; cf. Proverbs 11:30; James 5:19-20).
- The flatterer flatters, not merely to please you, but to deceive you (cf. Psalm 5:8-9; Psalm 62:4).
- Some people want strong preaching until it begins to show up their weakness (Acts 7:54-58).
- If the preaching of righteousness offends you, you are not right with God (John 6:41-66).
- A man's standing with God determines the stand that he takes, or even if he will take a stand (1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 1:27; Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 3:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:15).
- If the circumstance in life brings you to your knees, just remember that this is one of the best positions to be in when we pray (Psalm 95:6).
- Sometimes people have to feel the heart before they can see the light (Acts 2:37; cf. Acts 9:6).
- A church that compromises does not comprise a faithful church of Christ (Revelation 3:1-6;14-19).
- The man who must always be trying to prove to himself that he is a man, will never be satisfied with the proof.
- It is hard for a team to pull and work together when one is a bull and the other is a donkey that constitutes the team (Amos 3:3).
- "All nice and no sacrifice" — that describes the situation of too many professing Christians! (Matthew 16:24).
- Be more than a second hand Christian who has responded to prefabricated beliefs supplied by others; personally search out the Scriptures for yourself (Acts 17:11).
- If we disregard the Bible and throw our convictions to the wind, we will be "*tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine*" (Ephesians 4:14).
- Do what is right and you won't have to worry about the consequences of doing wrong.
- It seems that some people can't tell the truth, and others can't tell the difference (1 Timothy 6:3-5; Proverbs 14:15).
- If you tolerate wrong, and learn to live with compromise, the next step is to accept it (Matthew 26:14-16 Matthew 27:1-5) .

~ Mike Riley ~

Elders, It Is Time!

The toughest job in the church is being an elder. Well, let's say it this way—when done properly, the toughest job in the church is being an elder. It is tough because of the responsibility that it entails. It is tough because of the accountability it requires. It is tough because of the misunderstandings associated with it. Many members of the church do not know what elders do, and so their work is often misrepresented. Listen to prayers for elders, which often sound something like, "Be with the elders in the decisions that they make." Elders are viewed as the "decision-makers," as seen also in the complaints members make about "the decision that the elders made." While elders certainly make decisions (and often very important ones), their responsibility is so much greater and eternally significant than that!

Elders, it is time to step out from the "decision-makers" status and be what God intended for you to be! God's elders are like Moses, who was willing to give himself and his own soul for the people of God! God's elders are like Jethro, who understood the need to delegate tasks to trusted individuals! God's elders are like David, who never lost sight of the importance of being among the sheep as a shepherd! God's elders are like Eli, who guided a young man in becoming a servant of God! God's elders are like Gideon, who went to battle with his men, rather than sending them out on their own! God's elders are like Elisha, who made special efforts on behalf of a widow! God's elders are like Ezra, who helped God's people to know and understand His Word! God's elders are like Nehemiah, who helped God's people to trust in the Lord and to see His hand at work in their success! God's elders are like the Tekoite nobles, who personally put their shoulders to the work! God's elders are like Jeremiah, who was never swayed by the cultural or political trends but faithfully demanded adherence to the old paths! God's elders are like Daniel, who spent much time in private prayer! God's elders are like Paul, who focused significant energy on strengthening the souls of the disciples! God's elders are like Barnabas, who sought opportunities to encourage! God's elders are like the Ephesian elders, who openly loved gospel preachers and gospel preaching! God's elders are like Philemon, who opened his home to the church! God's elders are like the author of Hebrews, who integrated himself with his readers by saying, "Let us!" God's elders are like Peter, who encouraged his fellow elders in their service! God's elders are like Jesus, who knows His sheep by name and they know Him!

It is too easy to fall into the mold of what others think an elder should be or to mimic the style of other elders. What are needed today are men who will go back and be the elders that God designed for them to be! It is time!

~ David Sproule

A Sack of Potatoes

A Bible class teacher once asked her students to bring a clear trash bag and a sack of potatoes next week. At that class, she had each student take out a potato and write down some of the following on each potato: 1) A past situation where they were wronged but that still upsets them. 2) A current situation where they have been wronged and are upset about it. 3) A person they may still be upset with or holding a grudge against.

Each student's bag was unique. Some of the bags were lighter or heavier than others. The teacher then instructed the students to carry this bag around with them everywhere for the next week. It was to be with them at all times and they could not sit it down.

After the week was up, the students brought their potatoes back to class. As you might imagine, the potatoes now looked ugly and beaten. The potatoes had deteriorated into a nasty sight from being dropped, hit, baked in the sun, and a variety of other damaging influences. Hauling around these nasty potatoes was a burden to each kid in the class. Then the teacher explained the point of this exercise.

When we refuse to forgive, it's a burden to carry that grudge around. We think about those situations. We think about those people. We let the burden grow and fester. The longer we carry it, the nastier it becomes. How silly it is to hold on to these grudges and to refrain from forgiving people when we could simply let go of these burdens.

Colossians 3:12-14 says, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

God has forgiven us and we should forgive others as well (Matthew 6:14-15). Can you think of someone who needs your forgiveness? Is there a situation you're still holding on to? Why are we still holding on to these things? Let go of this burden.

~ copied

PRAYER LIST



Hunter Kuhl, grandson of Terry & Yolanda Stubblefield will have knee surgery in Tupelo Fri. March 6th.

Novene Robertson is having tests run and has been placed on a new medication.

Linda Ashmore is being treated with medication for a heart problem. She will see her doctor again in a month.

Sympathy: We express our sympathy to Larry & Janice Cobb on the death of their brother-in-law Hubert Gordon, who passed away Feb. 26th. He was from Baldwyn, MS.

Continue to Remember:

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

Shut-Ins:

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill DePriest, Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

AREA EVENTS

- A Gospel Meeting will be held at the Verona Church of Christ March 8-11. Students from the Northwest School of Biblical Studies will be speaking. Check the bulletin board for details.
The Pine Bluff Church of Christ invites the ladies to their Ladies Day Sat. March 21st, beginning at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be Angela Banks.
Area Wide at Fulton March 15th.

I've Learned...

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- March 05. Price Senter
March 06. Bill Lyon(90)
March 10. Richard Jennings
March 15. Masey Kate Adams
March 17. Patricia Crow

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 17. Mark & Alyce Jennings



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.

SPRING FORWARD!

It is that time of year again! Day-light Savings Time begins Mar. 8th. Please set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Sat. night, March 7th. See you at Bible Class Sun. morning!



THANK YOU!

We want to say "Thank You" to Jason & Amy Jennings for organizing the trip to CYC. They did a great job preparing all the details and keeping up with everyone. We had 40 to attend and everyone really enjoyed the weekend.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Lads to Leaders practice each Sun. at 5:00.
Elders and Deacons will meet at 5:00 Sun. March 8th.
NAYPE will meet following Wed. night services March 11th.
All men who are willing to lead a Wed. night devotional please sign the list in the foyer.
SIS (Sisters in Service) our ladies group, will meet Sun. March 8th, at 5:15pm in the annex. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

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Volume 09

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.....Owen Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Randy Wall
 Closing.....Thomas Wall
 P.M. Prayer.....David Clayton
 Closing.....Jerry Grimmitt
 Wed.3/1.....Mark Jennings
 Wed.3/11.....Joe Owen
 Lock 3/8.....Shaler Grigsby
 Usher 3/8.....Jason Jennings
 Security 3/8.....Matt Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Juice

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Time To Pray "Pray without ceasing"

1 Thessalonians 5:17

A common complaint (or maybe better put, excuse) is this: "I just don't have time to pray." Indeed we are all busy with everyday life. We may work, go to school, and have family obligations.

Yet, we do find in the scriptures many who were busy, but always had time to pray. Daniel was the prime minister of one hundred and twenty-seven Babylonian provinces, yet daily and frequent were his devotions.

King David had to give audience to ambassadors, orders to generals, and instruction to magistrates, yet he said, "*Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud*" (Psalm 55:17).

And then there is Jesus. He was busy with bringing salvation to mankind. We read about Him, "*After he had sent the multitudes away, He went up into the mountain to pray, and he continued all night in prayer to God*" (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12).

So frequent was His practice and so rewarding His experience, that the disciples requested lessons on prayer (Luke 11:1).

We must find the time to pray, even if we must skip a television program, neglect surfing the Internet or shorten a meal.

Let's take time to pray!

--Hugh Shira (deceased)