

# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

April 14, 2020

## What Should Brotherly Love Encourage Us to Do?

By Sam Willcut



Concerning this subject, the apostle Paul wrote some quite enlightening things to the brethren in Thessalonica about which I would like to note. Contemplate carefully the passage under consideration and the following observations:

*“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

First, note the priority of growing in brotherly love (4:9-10). Paul commends them due to the fact that he does not need to teach them to do so, but in fact, praises them in their fine example of loving one another (cf. Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1-3; 1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 2 Peter 1:7). The apostle John declared that we are to see such through actions (1 John 3:18; 4:19-21), and Paul sets forth that they have done just that, not only to the brethren there in Thessalonica, but even to their brethren in Macedonia. However, note that he encourages them regarding such to “increase more and more....” In other words, though they were exemplary in practicing brotherly love, they could always improve upon such and grow. As we seek to implement such in our lives, no matter how loving we may be to our brethren, this does not indicate that we have arrived at a place of self-sufficiency. Rather, we are to realize that we can always improve regarding brotherly love. Thus, this denotes the priority it is to be to every child of God. It disturbs me at times to read of the ugliness of some of our brethren in some of our publications. While we need to learn that we do not need to compromise truth at the sacrifice of brotherly love, we also need to learn how to discuss the differences we may have with brethren without questioning their integrity or losing our love for them. We might have too much of some things, but we can never have too much of brotherly love (cf. Galatians 5:22-23)!

Second, note the process of branching out from brotherly love (4:11). He additionally commands them to “study to be quiet.” The literal rendering would showcase an interesting paradox, “Make it your ambition not to be ambitious.” Of course, this is in reference to their occupations—they were to be ambitious to work, but they were not to work as those in the world, because Christians are to have a different perspective on the world and their occupations (cf. Acts 20:35; Ephesians 4:28). In other words, they were to go about their business in a quiet and restful way, serving God and using their opportunities to do good wherever they arise. Then, he commands them to “do your own business.” In his second epistle to them, he mentions busybodies (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12; cf. Colossians 3:22, 24; Titus 3:8, 14). The fact is that idlers become meddlers. Therefore, he tells them to stay busy doing their own work. In addition, he commands them “to work with your own hands.” He also mentions this again in the aforementioned second epistle. For some reason, some of the brethren were not working, and it is not clear as to the exact reason why. Was it because they had left idolatry and had become so enthused with their new religion that they just quit their jobs? Was it because they thought that Christ would return soon and simply quit their jobs? I am not sure that we know, although some certainly speculate. Here, it literally refers to not overseeing the matters of other people. This is not necessarily easy—many times, it is easier to run the business of others than our own business, because we know how others are to do so! Therefore, let us be ambitious to be quiet in order to take care of our own business, not trying to run the affairs of other people. This is good advice for everyone.

## To my child.....

Just for this morning

I am going to smile when I see your face, and laugh when I feel like crying.

Just for this morning

I will let you wake up softly in your flannel p.j.'s and hold you until you are ready to stir.

Just for this morning,

I will let you choose what you want to wear, and I will say how beautiful you are.

Just for this morning

I will step over the laundry to pick you up, and take you to the park to play

Just for this morning

I will leave the dishes in the sink, and let you teach me how to put that puzzle together.

Just for this afternoon

I will unplug the telephone and keep the computer off, and sit with you in the garden blowing bubbles.

Just for this afternoon

I will not yell once, not even a tiny grumble when you scream and whine for the ice cream truck and I will buy you one, if he comes by.

Just for this afternoon

I won't worry about what you are going to be when you grow up, or how you might have been before your diagnosis.

Just for this afternoon,

I will let you help me make cookies, and I won't stand over you. . . trying to 'fix things.

Just for this afternoon,

I will take you to McDonalds and buy us both a 'Happy Meal' So you can have two toys.

Just for this evening,

I will hold you in my arms and tell you the story of how you were born, and how much we love you.

Just for this evening,

I will let you splash in the bathtub, and I won't get angry when you pour water over your sister's head.

Just for this evening

I will let you stay up late, while we sit on the porch swing and count all the stars.

Just for this evening

I will bring you glasses of water, and snuggle beside you for hours, and miss my favorite t.v. show.

Just for this evening

When I kneel down to pray, I will simply be grateful for all that I have, and not ask for anything,

Except

Just one more day.

Written by Sally Meyer for her son Dhylan



## The Lord is my Shepherd From

A Bible class teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verses.

Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

The Encourager, Calvert City church of Christ

## A Moment for Him

We mutter and sputter  
We fume and we spurt  
We mumble and grumble our feelings get hurt.

We can't understand things,  
Our vision grows dim,  
When all that we need  
Is a moment with Him

~ author unknown ~



# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

## PRAYER LIST



**Ron Griggs** father of *Madison Griggs* remains in the Oxford Hospital following surgery to remove his leg below the knee. He is in a lot of pain. Please send cards to room 4116 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North MS, 1100 Belk Blvd, Oxford, MS 38655

**Mildred Shackelford**, sister of *Dixie White* is not doing well.

**Sue Stroud** suffered a mini stroke this past week. She is at home recovering and will be treated with medication.

**Molly Clayton's** tests that were scheduled for mid April have been moved to early May. She continues to have stomach issues.

**Eleta Grimmert** is battling COPD again with antibiotics and steroids. Please pray for her.

### Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Bill Lyon, Connie Montgomery, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Sue Stroud, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Nicki Weaver, 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



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 17. .... Kurt Clayton  
April 19. .... Thomas Wall  
April 20. .... Lynn Harrison  
April 25. .... Billie Joe Garner  
April 29. .... Lana Todd

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 17. .... Alvin & Kaye Parks  
April 28. .... Larry & Linda Ashmore



## CHURCH FAMILY UP DATE

- Communion supplies are available if you did not come by and pick yours up last week. Please contact *Greg Clayton* at 662-252-9762, and he will see that you get some. Also, your contribution can be mailed to our post office box 148.
- Remember that our services are being live streamed Sun. morning at 10:30. You can go to our website @ [nacoc.us](http://nacoc.us) to watch live. On Wed. night we will be posting a video devo by Shaler no later than 6:00 PM.
- Please continue to check on each other via texts, calls, face book etc. Let *Kathy Jennings* or one of the elders know of any that may be sick or have any needs. Most of all, pray for each other and our country.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Which of these is not one of Job's three friends: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bilhan the Edomite, Bildad the Shuhite, Zophar Naamathite?



2. After the resurrection, when Mary first saw Jesus outside his tomb on the first day of the week, who did she think He was?

3. What is the power of God unto salvation?

4. What elderly woman saw Jesus in the Temple when He was a baby, gave thanks and spoke of redemption to the people through Jesus?

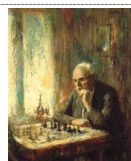
5. How were the poor churches of Macedonia able to give so much?

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

### I've Learned...

to look back and be grateful, look ahead and be hopeful, look around and be helpful.



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

Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto:nacoc15s@gmail.com)

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Volume 15

## 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

Greg Clayton.....252-9762  
 Tim Dye.....316-2527  
 Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 Phil Young.....316-2059

## DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420  
 Roger Clayton ..... 538-8195  
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195  
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260  
 Mark Jennings.....316-1606  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....  
 A.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 P.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 Wed.....  
 Wed.....  
 Lock.....  
 Usher .....  
 Security .....

## OUR RECORD

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

## PANTRY ITEMS



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

## Beating Worry

Time has a way of improving the conditions of daily lives. What posed as hardship for my grandparents are today's luxuries. Surrounded with gadgets and gizmos to make life easy, why can't they invent something, anything that will remove worry from our lives?

Volumes have been written to abate the damage worry causes. Man may find more things to worry about, but Jesus alone holds the secret to beat worry. Jesus said that to neutralize stress one must keep clear, spiritual priorities (Matthew 6:33). The Christian is entitled to place his trust in God. Unlike the rest of creation, God gives the faithful disciple the benefits of His protection (v. 26). Let God have priority over any and every problem and one can live without being crushed by worry.

Worry, and the stress it spawns, can be reduced by living one day at a time (Matthew 6:34). Jesus teaches that God is well aware of our needs. Dream big about tomorrow but don't steal its heartaches. These are literally the times that try men's souls. Jesus alone can bring contentment to the stressed-out world.

By David Bragg