



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

April 28, 2020

Seek the Welfare of the City

By: Doy Moyer



God's people had been sent into Babylonian exile because of their failure to keep the covenant. While in exile, what should have been the attitude of God's people generally?

Jeremiah sent a letter to the people of God in exile: *"to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon"* (Jer 29:1). In this letter, Jeremiah told them to build houses, plant gardens, get married, and have children. He told not to decrease, but to increase and *"seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare"* (Jer 29:7).

There are important lessons here. God's people should always be a blessing to the world in which we live. We should be a blessing to our neighbors, to our community, to our city and nation. We know this world is not home; we seek the heavenly country and our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20-21; Heb 11:13-16). At the same time, we need to seek the welfare of this place of exile in which we live. We can do this by loving our neighbor as ourselves and treating others as we would want to be treated (Matt 7:12; 22:36-40). We can do this through our prayers: *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way"* (1 Tim 2:1-2). We can use whatever freedoms we have to glorify God and serve others. Peter put it this way:

"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." (1 Pet 3:13-17)

The freedoms that we have are not to be used for selfish ambitions, but for serving and blessing others. We don't have to agree with the people of this world to seek their welfare. We don't have to become enmeshed in political scheming and mudslinging to pray for the leaders, no matter what their views might be. We don't have to feel at home in this world in order to seek what is best for others. Seeking the welfare of the city transcends worldly concerns.

If God's people in exile could seek the welfare of Babylon, that city that came to stand for all that is against God, then surely Christians can seek the welfare of this world today. It does not mean condoning sin or compromising God's truth. It does mean that we show ourselves to be reasonable, gentle, and reflect the longsuffering of God who seeks the salvation of all. It means we recognize our place as lights in a dark world (Matt 5:14-6; Phil 2:12-16).

We see this attitude exemplified by Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar's second dream was of a large tree whose top reached into the heavens. What appeared to be a tree of life gave false security, and in this dream a holy one came from heaven and proclaimed that the tree be chopped down and to leave the stump among the beasts of the earth and the grass of the fields. This was to show Nebuchadnezzar who ruled over the kingdoms of men (Dan 4:13-18). When Daniel began interpreting the dream, knowing that this foretold Nebuchadnezzar's downfall, Daniel said, *"My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"* (Dan 4:19) Daniel was not personally seeking Nebuchadnezzar's downfall, but spoke in a way that sought his welfare. This did not keep Daniel from telling the truth about the dream, but it showed a heart for seeking the welfare of the city in which he dwelled.

The most important way that we can seek the welfare of the place in which we live is by living and proclaiming the blessing of the Gospel. Remember that God's promise to Abraham was that through Abraham's seed all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gen 12:1-3). This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who died and was raised up again *"to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness"* (Acts 3:26). By living and sharing the blessing of forgiveness and a reconciled relationship with God, we become blessings to others who can also know this forgiveness and fellowship.

Do what is right. Love your neighbors. Seek the welfare of the city where you live and await the final day of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

via ~ Vestavia Church of Christ ~ 04/19/20 -

Bulletin

DODGING TREES!

This “social distancing” might be taking a toll on many people. My policeman friend with the Durango PD told me last week that domestic violence is spiking. This and other anomalies make us wonder just how immature our culture has become.

Certainly the “shelter at home” orders take their toll on us, but we must be strong, resilient and hold fast to our maturities, spiritual and practical. For instance, I decided I finally needed to go to the grocery store. As I was driving, just after dark, an amazing thing happened – I found myself dodging trees in the roadway, back and forth repeatedly. As I was wondering what happened, a squad car stopped me and the officer approached cautiously. He asked, “What in the world are you doing with all that swerving?” I answered that I was dodging the trees in the road. He looked around for a while, then finally fixed his eyes on my rear view mirror. He said, rather indignantly, “Sir, that is your air freshener swinging back and forth!”

OK, so that didn’t really happen. But for a comparison, let’s consider the situation of missing our weekly gatherings. Due to the “shutdown” we just might, if we are not careful, lose our skills, our edge, our sensitivity to God, to His word, or to one another, the precious face to face fellowship, the spiritual intimacy of sharing the Lord’s Supper, our interest in learning from class and worship (no comments from the peanut gallery!).

Researchers tell us that a habit is easily formed when we repeat the same thing for about 6 weeks. It would be rather easy to consider missing corporate worship for 6 weeks and simply *feel* like this is the new norm. No wonder the Hebrew writer warned against missing the assembly with the word “habit.” No wonder the early Christians, “...devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers,” Acts 2:42, ESV.

As life comes at us hard and fast, whether it’s a panoply of practical problems or a pernicious pandemic, we all have “trees” to dodge that might be real or might be perception. Regardless of the challenge, we must stay attached to the life-giving vine, Jesus, if we are to produce fruit as His branches. That is best done when we abide in Him and let His words abide in us. And *that* is best done when we stay connected to “one another.” A great exercise this week would be to look up “one another” verses in the Bible and realize the connectedness God has planned to for us, so that we can better “encourage one another.”

Further study: John 15:1-11; Hebrews 10:23-31; “one another” passages. ~ Ray Wallace

FILL IN THE BLANKS



“And _____ said to _____ his son, Be _____ and of good _____, And do ____: fear _____, nor be _____, for the _____, even my _____, will be _____; he will not _____ thee, nor _____ thee, until thou hast _____ all the _____ for the _____ of the _____ of the _____.
Chronicles 28:_____.

Taking Turns

There is a tender story told about an ailing mother who was resting in her bed when her nine-year-old daughter walked in. The daughter quietly unfolded a blanket and tucked it around her mother.

“You know,” the mother said, “It hasn’t been that long since I was tucking you in, and now here you are covering me up.” The little girl smiled, kissed her on the cheek, whispered, “We take turns,” and then skipped out of the room.

That little girl, with innocence and insight, stated a truth for our time. “We take turns” in the family of God when we love each other, serve each other, and encourage each other. Let’s not miss the opportunities.

Let’s not let them slip by. Let’s keep our eyes and hearts open. Let’s remember: we take turns!

~ Dennis Lynn ~

Before It Is Too Late

If you have a tender message
Or a loving word to say,
Do not wait till you forget it,
But whisper it today.
The tender word unspoken,
The letter never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent –
For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.

--Frank Herbert Sweet



For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Don Golden, father of *Lakisha Golden* and brother of *Benita Garner* will have bypass surgery Tuesday, at the Tupelo Hospital.

Ron Griggs father of *Madison Griggs* returns to the doctor Tues. for a check-up.

Billie Joe Garner is improving.

Charles Ulmer, relative of the *Young family* is having serious health problems at this time.

Ronnie Miller, father of *Amanda Coggin* is now at home waiting results from his test this past week.

Nicki Weaver had test this past week and will see a neurologist in May.

Sympathy:

 We are sad to announce the passing of our brother in Christ, **Jerry Gibson**. *Jerry* passed away in the early morning hours of April 27th. We express our sympathy to *Lucy* and family. No arrangements are known at this time.

 We extend our sympathy to Larry Cobb and family in the passing of his sister **Barba Nowlin**. A Memorial service will be held at a later date.

 We express our sympathy to *Kathy Clayton* and family in the loss of her cousin (more like a sister to her) **Patty Worley**, who passed away April 24th.

Continue to Remember:

Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmatt, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Bill Lyon, Connie Montgomery, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Sue Stroud, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



I've Learned...

Starting your day in gratitude will give you the right attitude for the rest of your day.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 29..... Lana Todd
May 02..... Madison West
May 03..... Anderson Parks
May 07..... Randy Wall

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 28..... Larry & Linda Ashmore
May 09..... Josh & Shelly George



2020 GRADUATES

All of our 2020 graduates, high school and college, are asked to get your information to *Kathy Jennings* as soon as possible. The high school graduates are asked to submit a photo as well. We will have a recognition of our graduates as soon as we are able to be back at the building again.

BIBLE CLASS / VIDEOS & ZOOM

Several opportunities are now available for our youth to engage in Bible class by way of videos and Zoom. *Shaler* has a Wed. night Bible class on Zoom for the teenage class and is working on a video for our pre-teen classes. *Amy Jennings* will have a Zoom class on Wednesdays at 3:00pm for the cradle roll through kindergarten class. If you have any questions about these opportunities please let *Shaler* or *Amy* know. We hope all our youth (as well as other youth who would like to participate) will take part.

CHURCH NEWS

- Communion supplies are available if you need any. Please contact the office or one of the deacons. 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 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.

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 17

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 Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 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

Two Essential Questions

Another month gone that will never return. It cannot be undone, for good or bad, for joy or sadness.

We hope to have another month ahead. We'll make plans to use it, possibly. We ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will do this or that" (see James 4). But we'll actually live it a day at a time, from moment to moment.

Things will happen to cause changes in plans. We can wring our hands and cry tears of frustration. Or we can adjust and adapt and see in the changes, possibilities, and opportunities.

Plans consist of intentions to use time and resources, hopefully, in a positive and constructive way, for maximum benefit.

For a Christian, plans ought to reflect the spiritual priority of the two greatest commandments (see Matthew 22). So one ought to be constantly asking oneself:

- * How can I use my time and resources to love God?
- * How can I use my time and resources to love my neighbor?

Victor Hugo wrote, "Love is the only future God offers." Shouldn't the Christian plan to make the future revolve around love?

-- J. Randal Matheny (via Bulletin Gold)