



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

May 26, 2020

Four Areas Worth Being Passionate About

There are some small issues in our world. There are some big ones. There are some issues that are relatively small that we've made into big issues. In an attempt to keep the main things as the main things, here are 4 topics that are worth being passionate about as Christians:

1. Lost Souls. In the approximately 5 minutes it takes to read this article, 533 people will have died and gone to face judgment. Just today, an estimated 153,424 people will seal their eternal resting place. The heart-breaking reality is the majority of these people will be lost and unprepared for judgment (Matthew 7:13-14). As Christians, we are the ones who have the eternally saving message (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). We are the ones who have been tasked with telling others (Matthew 28:18-20). In a single week, many Christians will put more energy into arguing on social media over some topic than they ever have towards saving a soul. If anyone should understand the dire situation our world is in, it is Christians! We are the ones who should want to save lost souls. Souls are worth being passionate about! Are we?

2. Saving Children. In the 5 minutes spent on this article, 434 unborn children worldwide will be murdered by abortion. Today alone, there will be an estimated 125,000 abortions worldwide. Since we began keeping records in 1980, there have been around 1.46 billion, yes billion, abortions worldwide, and almost 60 million have come from the U.S. God considers even the unborn children as people (Psalm 139:13-16; Job 31:15). God has had specific plans for the unborn children (Jeremiah 1:5). In fact, in the Old Testament, if the child was killed in the womb, it was counted as taking a life (Exodus 21:22-25). There are very few things more tragic than watching our world as it slaughters our young. Yet we seem to be more passionate to stand for or against some opinionated topic. And as every minute continues to tick by, another 86 children lose their lives to abortion. Children are worth being passionate about! Are we?

3. Defending God's Plan for Marriage. In the last few years, our world has all but destroyed God's clearly defined plan for marriage (Matthew 19:4-6; Genesis 2:18-24). In fact, there are no other commands for a marriage relationship other than between a man and woman (Ephesians 5:22-33). Even worse, our culture has convinced many to rally behind and support this sin (just like those in Romans 1:26-32, especially vs. 32). All the while, God's word stands clear and resolute that homosexuality is wrong (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11). As Christians, we have an enormous responsibility. The truth must be told (Ephesians 4:15). However, the truth must be told in a way that demonstrates overflowing love. This is a delicate, yet vital, balance. God's plan for marriage is worth being passionate about! Are we?

4. Showing A Unifying Love. Brethren are allowing popular issues to divide them. The church is allowing cultural matters to separate them. Individuals are allowing hot-button topics to cloud their good judgment. It's one thing to have a private opinion on a matter. It's another thing to publicly proclaim it and then fight, argue, bicker, slander, and divide over this opinion. Sometimes it's better to just follow Romans 14 and keep our opinions in a place where it won't cause problems and divisions in the church. Or worse yet, for these opinions to be seen by non-Christians who then develop a sour taste for Christians. Our time can be so much better spent showing the world that we love each other (John 13:35). Our energy will go so much further if it's used in service (Philippians 2:3-8). Our efforts will be much more effective if used for encouragement and building up (Hebrews 3:13). Loving and unifying the church is worth being passionate about! Are we?

If we are not careful, we can end up falling into some of the same traps as those in Timothy's day who "turned aside to fruitless discussions" (1 Timothy 1:5-7). Our time is restricted. Our energy is depleting. Our words are limited. Let us invest these into areas that are worthy of our passion. --Copied

BOYFRIENDS

Once upon a time there was a girl who had four boyfriends.

She loved the fourth boyfriend the most and adorned him with rich robes and treated him to the finest of delicacies. She gave him nothing but the best. She also loved the third boyfriend very much and was always showing him off to neighboring kingdoms. However, she feared that one day he would leave her for another. She also loved her second boyfriend. He was her confidant and was always kind, considerate and patient with her. Whenever the girl faced a problem, she could confide in him, and he would help her get through the difficult times. The girl's first boyfriend was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining her wealth and kingdom. However, she did not love the first boyfriend. Although he loved her deeply, she hardly took notice of him.

One day, the girl fell ill and she knew her time was short. She thought of her luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four boyfriends with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone." Thus, she asked the fourth boyfriend, "I loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" replied the fourth boyfriend, and he walked away without another word. His answer cut like a sharp knife right into her heart.

The sad girl then asked the third boyfriend, "I loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!" replied the third boyfriend. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to marry someone else!" Her heart sank and turned cold. She then asked the second boyfriend, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!" replied the second boyfriend. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave." His answer struck her like a bolt of lightning, and the girl was devastated.

Then a voice called out: "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The girl looked up, and there was her first boyfriend. He was very skinny as he suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the girl said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, we have four boyfriends in our lives: Our fourth boyfriend is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die. Our third boyfriend is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, they will all go to others. Our second boyfriend is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the farthest they can stay by us is up to the grave. And our first boyfriend is our Soul — often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us where ever we go. We must cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout Eternity.

~ Anonymous

Some Difficult Things

- To wait without impatience
- To decide without prejudice
- To suffer without complaint
- To hate sin, yet love the sinner
- To know when to keep silent
- To concentrate in the midst of strife
- To endure hatred without resentment
- To serve, without commendation or compensation.
- To listen to another without interrupting
- To respect another's right to hold a different opinion

~ Author Unknown ~

Why Do the Righteous Suffer?

The book of Job is the Old Testament's definitive statement on the subject of the goodness and righteousness of God in the light of human suffering. If God is all-powerful and entirely good, why does He permit His own people to suffer? Many assume that all suffering is a result of sinfulness on the part of the sufferer which is not true. We may not completely understand His ways, but we must know God is always seeking the spiritual and eternal welfare of humankind. God can use anything and everything that happens, to make better people of us (Romans 8:28). The trials through which we go provide a proving ground for the strengthening of our faith (1 Peter 1:6-9). Let us never blame God for trouble, but rather look to him for help.

~ Clark Tatum ~

PRAYER LIST



Eleta Grimmitt, is in ICU of the Tupelo Hospital with sepsis and pneumonia. She is a little better but has a long road ahead of her. Please pray also for Jerry as he helps care for Eleta.

Billie Joe Garner, is in the local hospital with sepsis. Bill Lyon, his health continues to decline. Please remember Bill and Grace in your prayers.

Ron Griggs had another fall last week and stayed a few days in the Oxford Hospital. He is having a tough time with his recovery.

Luke Jennings had appendicitis surgery Sunday at the local hospital. He is at home recovering.

Anna Jennings fell Monday and fractured her left arm. She will be in a cast for a few weeks.

Randy Wall had a mishap Sunday and needed a few stitches.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.



Continue to Remember:

Richard Adams, Molly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Phillip Haynes, Andrea Hill, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Nicki Weaver, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, Sue & 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...

Character is determined by what you stand for. Reputation is ruined by what you fall for.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- May 27.....Olen Clark
May 30..... Larry Cobb
June 01.....Grace Lyon
June 02..... Patience Golden
June 03..... Zac Conquest
June 06..... Perry Jones

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 31..... Jim & Emily Gann
June 01..... Bill & Helen DePriest (71)
June 03.....Ronnie & Linda Griggs
June 04.....Terry & Yolanda Stubblefield



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for our beautiful shower last Sunday. You'll never know how much we appreciated all of you and what you do for us. Thank you so much for all of the gifts and well wishes! And, a special thank you to the hostesses for all of their hard work to make our day do special! In Christian love, Shaler & Madison

Care Team 3

Thank you for the water, gloves, and cake mix you brought to us on May 19th, 2020. We are so proud you support our children in this special way. May God bless you in all your kind deeds.

Sincerely yours, Randy Collum

(Executive Director Pine Vale Children's

CHURCH NEWS

- There will be a deacons meeting Sunday.
We will have a guest speaker Sun. June 7th. We will have more details Sunday.
The Area Wide Youth Meeting for June has been canceled.
A date has not yet been set for honoring our High School graduates. We hope to be able to honor them soon.
We will continue to meet here at the building Sundays at 10:30am for worship service only, until further notice.

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Volume 21

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...731-609-3309
 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

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 148, New Albany, MS 38652

When We Differ

“When brothers and sisters differ with one another, how we differ is just as important as the fact that we differ, or as the subject about which we differ” (Joshua Fullman, Chapel speech at Faulkner University).

A dog owner was trying to force-feed his dog some cod liver oil. The dog was resisting violently. As the “fight” continued, some of the oil was spilled onto the floor. The dog eagerly lapped up the cod liver oil from the floor. It wasn’t the medicine the dog was rejecting, it was the method of delivery!

Some of us seem to think that a person who is honestly mistaken about some doctrine needs to be rebuked and condemned rather than being taught. When we do this, we often do more harm than good. We solidify people in their error.

When we are correcting a brother overtaken in a fault, we are to do so with gentleness and humility (Galatians 6:1). When we answer those who ask for a reason for our hope, we are to answer them with gentleness and respect (2 Peter 3:16). Whenever we speak, we are to speak truth with love (Ephesians 4:15).

--via Preacher Talk (ed. by Cecil May, Jr.)