



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

July 7, 2020

“I’LL JUST WORSHIP AT HOME”

Mark Lindley

Faithful Christians have a strong desire to attend worship services. To worship God is a commandment, but it is also a high, exalted privilege. Wonderful things happen during worship. God’s people teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3 :16). We reflect on the death of our Lord (Luke 22 :19). God is praised and adored (Hebrews 2 :12). We fulfill God’s commandment for His people to assemble on the first day of the week (Hebrews 10 :25).

However, the recent Covid 19 pandemic has interrupted our lives and changed the place of worship for many. Because there is the danger of spreading the virus and infecting those most vulnerable, many congregations have met by means of Facebook Live.

Although this has not been the ideal situation, social media and technology have enabled Christians to worship with some degree of togetherness.

Many Bible classes have been taught through Zoom. In some classes, there have been discussions, comments and questions. It has been encouraging to participate in Bible class with others during this very difficult time.

All these things have been helpful and encouraging; however, these ways of worshiping and studying God’s Word cannot replace regular, public assemblies. The clear teaching of Scripture is that God’s people are to come together in one place to worship. Consider what Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: “*When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper*” (I Corinthians 11 :20). Observe from this text that the Corinthians had a practice of coming “*together into one place.*” They were supposed to be partaking of the Lord’s Supper in their assemblies, but they were not partaking in the proper manner. That is why Paul wrote, “*this is not to eat the Lord’s supper.*” But the text makes the point: these early Christians met in one place —the same place —for worship.

In the city of Troas, God’s people met together for worship. Scripture says, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow ; and continued his speech until midnight*” (Acts 20: 7). These early Christians in Troas understood the great importance of assembling together for worship. In recent months, it has not been feasible for many congregations to meet for worship. However, no one should use the pandemic as an excuse for neglecting worship. As soon as Christians can safely assemble for worship, we should assemble. Our attitude toward worship should be the same as David’s: “*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD*” (Psalm 122:1). One who says, “I’ll just worship at home,” and refuses to assemble when the local congregation is meeting, should evaluate his attitude toward worship.

~ via Chapman Challenger

All A Matter of Perspective

Today was the absolute worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.

And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because

True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that

The reality
Creates
My attitude

It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
Today was a good day.

The exact same lines in the same order read top to bottom read:

Today was a good day
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
It's all beyond my control
My attitude

Creates
The reality

I'm sure you can agree that
It's not true that good exists
Only if one's surroundings are good
True happiness can be obtained

Because
It's all in the mind and heart
And it's not true that

Satisfaction and happiness don't last
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Even if

This world is a pretty evil place
Because, when you take a closer look,
There's something good in every day
And don't try to convince me that
Today was the absolute worst day ever

Our choice of attitude determines our perspective and our perspective determines our reality – therefore, our attitude determines our reality. Author unknown



“Keep on Keepin’ On”

"Keep on keepin' on" - it was so common in the 1960s in some places in America that it began to supplant "Good-bye" when people parted company. The basic thought of "Good-bye" is that your life goes well in the "bye and bye," or until we meet again. Similarly, "Keep on keepin' on" was meant for both perseverance and encouragement to keep your chin up, keep working, keep trying, keep living life in positive ways, and don't let the crazy people get you down! Everyone knew what it meant and appreciated cheerful reinforcement.

That kind of human encouragement has always been part of God's plan for His kids. Two thousand years ago the apostles had a follower from Cyprus named Joseph. He was such a profound encourager that they nicknamed him, "Barnabas", which means Son of Encouragement," (Acts 4:36). The Old Testament itself is an encouragement to New Testament Christians that we might have hope, (Romans 15:4). The next verse teaches us that God is the ultimate giver of both perseverance and encouragement. Hmmm... sort of divine "keep on keepin' on!"

To be like Jesus, we must be encouragers (Philippians 2:1). To be fellow workers for the kingdom of God, we should be encouragers of others, (Colossians 4:12). In fact, dozens of times in both testaments we find the words "encourage and encouragement."

In Acts 27:22, in the midst of an actual ship-wreck, Paul tells the crew, "Keep up your courage!" In Colossians 3:1 Paul reminds the Christians there to, "...keep seeking the things above." Peter encourages us to, "...keep fervent in your love for one another,

(I Peter 4:8) and also to "...keep on rejoicing" in 4:13. Likewise, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial," James 1:12.

Now would be a great time to read Romans 8:18-38. Paul acknowledges that we will face tough times. God never sweeps adversity under the rug. Yet He gives us hope to "keep on keepin' on" because He is with us and will never abandon us. In verse 39, Jesus is the answer.

So, do not lose heart (II Corinthians 4:16). During a world war, famine or flood, drought, locust plague, or even a global viral pandemic, keep on keepin' on!

Ray Wallace

Further study: I Corin. 4:7-18; Gal.6:9-10

PRAYER LIST



Dixie White, will be having more heart tests soon. She received good results from her heart valve test.

Linda Ashmore is undergoing heart tests.

Bill DePriest is dealing with bronchitis.

Teresa Barns, niece of Bonnie Stroup (former member), will have cancer surgery in Birmingham July 7th. Bonnie requested prayers for her.

Jimmy Coggin father of Dane Coggin has not been doing well. He is a resident of Magnolia Manor.

Bobby & Rhonda Butler, friends of several in the congregation have COVID 19.

J.L. Eaton continues to have back and hip problems.

Eleta Grimmitt is improving and was able to get off dialysis.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.



Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Phillip Haynes, Andrea Hill, Janie Huggins, Bill & Grace Lyon, Ronnie Miller, Jerry Robbins, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Jimmy Coggin, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter, J.D. Stroud

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



I've Learned...

Everyone smiles in the same language.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July 09. Arianna Golden

July 09. Kelvin Harris

July 14. Steve Hill

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 07. Brian & Shelby Carpenter

July 14. Perry & Gloria Jones



THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, words of encouragement, and this study Bible, as I go into my next stage of life. It means a lot to me. I am so thankful I have such a loving and caring church family. In Christian love,

David Clayton

CHURCH NEWS

- There will be an elder's & deacon's meeting Sunday, July 12th, at 9:30am.
• Sunday,10:30am Worship at the building or YouTube Livestream.
• Wed. night Bible class~YouTube Livestream at 6:30pm. The Gospel Quarterly is the study. Please let the office know if you need a book.
• Ladies Bible Study Zoom Class each Wed. at 6:30pm.
• Teen Parking Lot Bible Study, Thursdays at 6:30pm, beginning July 9th.
• Bible class videos for nursery-K and pre-teens each Wednesday.
• The Area Wide Youth Meeting for July has been canceled.

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)

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Volume 26

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.....Owen Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young
 Closing.....Greg Clayton
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....Jason Jennings
 UsherJason Jennings
 SecurityDane Coggins

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....91
 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

Concerning one's knowledge before baptism. . .

How Much Is Enough?

How much should a person know before being baptized into Christ? It's a good question, and one we need to consider as we teach people the gospel. On the one hand, some accounts of conversions in Acts seem to imply a very introductory understanding of the facts about Jesus. Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16) were baptized at their first hearing of the good news, apparently without any in-depth discussion of all that discipleship requires. At least, no such discussion is recorded. On the other hand, biblical teaching about repentance and the costs of discipleship needs to be made clear to the prospective Christian before they make an ill-informed commitment which they may not be inclined to keep. Obviously, they cannot be fully advised of every difficult spot in the road to heaven that they will encounter, but they need to be aware that "we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), and that anything less than total devotion to Christ is useless.

This seems to be the point of some of our Lord's teaching. Please read Luke 9:57-62 and 14:25-35, where Jesus bluntly insists that one must be prepared to give up everything to follow Him. Repentance itself involves change — something that many people are simply not intending to do. Unfaithful Christians are sometimes Christians who didn't make this fundamental commitment at the start, only to find somewhere down the road that Christ demands more than they are willing to give.

The rich young ruler (Mk. 10) might have made a 'good' lukewarm Christian. But Jesus saved him the trouble. We do no one a favor by watering down a message that will face them, undiluted, in judgment.

- by Jim King