



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

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So, What's First This Week?

By: Dan Jenkins



Who is there who does not struggle with setting priorities for their lives? Every day has its chores and it is likely that not all of them will be accomplished. The beginning of every new week, month or year can cause us to think of what needs to be done in that time frame. What we actually do will be determined by the goals we set. Even the failure to select priorities determines destiny.

Now think of how this applies to our spiritual lives. If what we accomplish in a day or week is shaped by our priorities, then how much truer is this of our entire spiritual lives. What does the Bible say about this matter. Look at the following verses where God has talked about *first* things.

Paul described the faithfulness of the Christians in Macedonia. *“And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us by the will of God”* (2 Cor. 8:5). When Paul received the vision of the man from Macedonia who begged him saying, *“Come over to Macedonia and help us”* (Acts 16:9), he departed immediately. The result of this action was the establishing of the great New Testament church in Philippi. Why was this church so great? Look at the text, *“They first gave themselves to the Lord.”*

Think about priorities in the home. What should be first in our homes? God leaves no doubt and mentions two distinct virtues which should be found there. Paul described the faith of Timothy in these words. *“I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you”* (2 Tim. 1:5). What was the priority in the lives of Lois and Eunice? What was the emphasis in those homes? It was the faith which *first* was in Lois and then in the succeeding generations.

A second virtue to be found in the home is mentioned in 1 Tim. 5. *“Let them first learn to show piety at home . . .”* This is where it begins. Godliness in the home is a *first* priority!

Consider also the place of prayer in the lives of Christians. Before we take any action, the Bible highlights the importance of us seeking God's wisdom and help. *“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplication, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men”* (1 Tim. 2:1). Look at the text. *“Therefore I exhort first. . .”* Yet how often do we see the importance of this? Before all else, there is the matter of prayer. If David and Daniel began each day with prayer, shouldn't we?

So as you plan each day, don't forget the Divine priorities set by heaven. It will make an eternal difference!

Let's Invest In People!

After being warned by the prophet Daniel about his sinful pride (Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalm 101:5; cf. Proverbs 16:18), the [Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar](#) was struck with insanity. The Lord restored his mind, but only after he spent a long period of time in a field thinking he was a wild animal (Daniel 4:28-37).

Nebuchadnezzar went from boasting, *"Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the glory of my majesty?"* (Daniel 4:30 ESV), to a humble prayer: *"I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven"* (Daniel 4:37). He had repented of prideful empire building.

There should be concern about empire building in the church today. Instead of focusing on large church buildings, one Christian evangelist encourages Christians to "build into the lives of people" and leave the results to God (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

When a congregation devotes undue energy to statistics, buildings, and programs, pride can enter in and the spiritual needs of God's people can be forgotten (cf. Hosea 4:6).

Jesus never forgot the value of people. He invested His time in 12 appointed men (Mark 3:14 ESV). Paul taught Timothy who in turn taught others (2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Brethren, God's kingdom grows **when we invest in people!** (cf. Acts 2:37-47; Acts 4:1-4; Acts 6:7; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20; Colossians 1:5-6).

~ Mike Riley ~

The Danger of Leaning Toward the World

When I was a young boy I played as much baseball as possible. All my friends played baseball because it was fun and cheap entertainment. All you needed to play was a glove, a ball and a bat. We could make or find something that could be designated as bases. I also watched a lot of baseball on television in those days. Lou Brock was one player that especially fascinated me because he was so fast at running the bases. Lou Brock's name became synonymous with stealing bases. He had stealing bases down to a science. Pitchers were always trying to pick Lou off base because he would take such large leads prior to stealing the base. You may know that the pitcher out of the corner of his eye, tries to see how far the runner is off of the base. He is especially looking to see which way the runner is leaning. The key for the pitcher to pick off a base runner is to throw to the base when the runner is leaning in the opposite direction. That is similar to the way Satan tries to get at us. Let us be careful which way we are leaning. There are only two ways to lean, we are either leaning towards the world or toward Jesus. When we have our spiritual armor in place, we are not simply leaning on Jesus we are standing with Jesus and His Word.

~ Clark Tatum

Gold Mines

- Children have more need of models than of critics.
- When weighing the faults of others, be careful not to put your thumb on the scale!
- Correcting faults is like tying a tie. We can do it more easily on ourselves than on others.
- The Bible will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from the Bible.
- No life is too broken for God to repair.
- When Christians work together, they divide the effort and multiply the effect.
- Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults!
- Swallowing of pride seldom causes indigestion.
- Bless God for what you have. Trust God for what you need. In all things, pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- A FRIEND I went out to find a friend, But could not find one there. I went out to be a friend and friends were everywhere.

~ Author Unknown ~

via Bulletin Gold www.bulletingold.com

Cleaning Out the Barn

Growing up, this was the job I hated the most (and, hated is not too strong a word). Three times a week I had to clean out the feed room in the barn. That includes everything you think would be included. It was a stinky, unpleasant job. I did it because it was my chore to do. I did it because dad made me.

Fast forward 30 years. Saturday afternoon I was feeding the cows for Pop. I finished his instructions and was about to leave the feed room when I noticed how dirty the floor was. I looked over and saw the shovel to the side and decided to clean the floor for him. I did the same thing that I'd done 30 years ago. It was just as unpleasant. But this time I did it not because I had to, but because I love him.

Obedience to God is kind of like that. Early on in our spiritual life, we obey because we have to; we do what we're told. Somewhere along the way, though — if you're really growing — we start obeying because we love him. Tasks that seemed to be so difficult at one point become much more bearable. That's why — long term — love is a far better motivator in Christian service than fear or obligation.

"If you love me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15)

~ Mark McCrary ~

PRAYER LIST



Helen DePriest fell the past Wed. Night and broke her hip. She had surgery Thurs. at the New Albany Hospital and is in room 203. She will remain in the hospital for at least another week, having rehab twice a day.


Madison Griggs, is improving from the Coronavirus.

Shelley Clayton has the Coronavirus.

Donald Wilson, nephew of Gloria Jones is in the Tupelo Hospital following a stroke/aneurism.

Ronnie Miller, father of Amanda Coggin is out of the hospital but still having health issues.

Expectant Mother

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct. 

Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, J.L. Eaton, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Bill & Grace Lyon, Sue Marques, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Jerry Robbins, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Dixie White, William Wilson

Shut-Ins:

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

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

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Andy Dye, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



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...

Patience and diligence, like faith, move mountains.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- September 01.....Michael Crotts
- September 01..... Lillie Jennings (1st)
- September 01.....Novene Robertson
- September 03.....Bill DePriest (96)
- September 09.....Austin Petrowski

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- September 02.....Dane & Amanda Coggin



IT'S A BOY!



It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Austin and Kelsey Petrowski on the birth of their son, Terry (Jack) Petrowski. Jack was born Mon. night, Aug. 24th. He weighed 6lbs 10oz and was 19 1/2 inches. Mom and baby are doing good. Congratulations also to grandmother Nancy Petrowski and great-grandmother Deloris Crow.

THANK YOU

Madison Griggs is feeling better and wants to thank everyone for all the calls, texts, and prayers while she was sick with the Coronavirus. She had another test Friday and is hoping to be cleared of the virus.

WED. NIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPT. 2ND

Beginning Wed. night Sept. 1, we will return to having Bible Class at the building as well as livestreamed. The adults will all meet in the auditorium and the 3rd grade-high school will meet with Shaler in the back parking lot. As usual we will need to wear a mask and continue to social distance. At this time we will not all gather back together in the auditorium but will be dismissed from the classes.

BIBLE TRIVIA

In what way was Asa afflicted in his old age?

- ___ Foot disease; ___ Gout;
 - ___ Boils; ___ Leprosy
- 1 Kings 15:23



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Volume 34

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....
 Morning Worship.....9:30
 Evening Worship.....
 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

Communion.....Joe Owen
 Scripture.....Hunter Jennings
 A.M. Prayer.....Paul Ormon
 Closing.....Caleb Jennings
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed. 9th ...Greg C. & S. Crotts
 Lock.....Harold Russell
 UsherRoger Clayton
 SecurityBrian Carpenter

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....79
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Cake Mix

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

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Love People; Use Things

I expect you've seen the title of this article practiced in reverse, as I have: "Use People; Love Things." Sad, but true. King Solomon observed, *"The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor. But the rich has many friends"* (Proverbs 14:20).

Now, why would a poor man's neighbors hate him? And why would a rich man have many friends? The poor man doesn't have much to offer materially, so his neighbors can't use him. The rich man's "friends," however, see opportunity to use him to their advantage. *"Many entreat the favor of nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts"* (Proverbs 19:6).



The Pharisees in John 8 used the woman taken in adultery to try to put Jesus into a dilemma. They cared nothing for her soul. All they wanted was to have an excuse to criticize the Lord. By contrast, Jesus loved her and sought her redemption. The "good Samaritan" in Luke 10 loved his neighbor and used his money and other possessions to help him. Love people; use things. The man who had been robbed and beaten could do nothing materially for the Samaritan. But he needed help, and the Samaritan provided it. As Jesus said, *"Go and do likewise"* (Lk. 10:37).

~ Joe Slater