



THE INFORMER

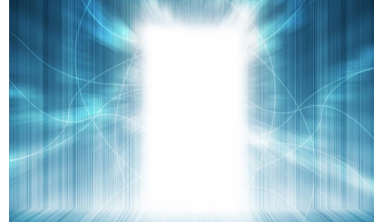
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

September 15, 2020

SEEING THE UNSEEN

Ray Wallace



There most definitely IS an unseen world. For anyone who believes God's word, this should not be a surprising concept. God has not shared a great deal of detail with us about the unseen world but we have enough biblical information that we can understand the reality and the purpose of that realm.

The Hebrew writer makes it quite clear in the first chapter of that book. Speaking of angels in the context, we see these words, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" Yes, angels are real and they render help to God's people. When and precisely *how* this happens is in God's hands and He has not shared those details with us. Faithful Christians are content to allow God to handle the processes whether we know those details or not.

One of the great events in the Bible is found in II Kings 6. The king of Aram (modern day Syria) was trying to capture Elisha, God's prophet, in the city of Dothan (verses 11-14). Early in the morning Elisha and his servant rise to see the entire city surrounded by the army and cavalry of Aram. Elisha's servant was understandably distraught, their demise seemed imminent! But Elisha knew *and saw* something that his servant could not see, *the unseen realm!* Elisha utters the now famous words, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." His servant must have thought Elisha had gone crazy. There are two of them facing thousands of enemy soldiers, mounted cavalry and chariots! They were hopelessly outnumbered.

Then Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant. God grants the request and suddenly his servant sees the reality, "And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Indeed, he now sees God's own angelic army there in force, far out-numbering the Aramean forces! The rest of the story unfolds through verse 23 and it was the end of the marauding bands of Arameans attacking Israel in that generation.

I wonder how often we, today, wring our hands in fear or frustration simply because we don't see God's plans or his angels. By definition, *we can't see the unseen*. But we remember Hebrews 1:14, that God's angels are ministering spirits sent out to render service to His people.

I wonder how often our own spirits forget Psalm 73:1, "*Do not fret because of evildoers.*" I must confess that it is hard to follow that instructive when I see rioters, looters and arsonists running wild on the evening news.

But I still remember God's word and accept the challenge to keep my fears in check because, "... *greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world,*" I John 4:4. Fear, trepidation and frustration *can only happen in one person's heart!* They do not exist out in mid air. Your heart can find the strength to "not fret because of evildoers."

The process of personal peace is, not surprisingly, *personal!* It is not the herd mentality that peace is and never has been controlled by the culture! Read Philippians 4:1-13. Therein we find the magnificent reality that, "*the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

The heathen rage (Ps. 1:1) and the enemies of God go about blindly (literally or figuratively, II Kings 6:15-19) but if and when we, as God's people, really do put Him on the thrones of our hearts, the peace that follows will, astoundingly, surpass all comprehension!

Friends

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face.

He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all fellowshiped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside.

People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit where he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank.

There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today,"

Then he started singing the words to this song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can cheer somebody with a word or song. If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong. Then my living shall not be in vain."

"IS YOUR LIVING IN VAIN?"

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).

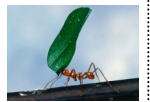
When a congregation devotes undue energy to statistics, buildings, and programs, pride can enter in and the spiritual needs of God's people can be forgotten (cf. Hosea 4:6).

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; Col. 1:5-6).

The Incredible Ant

Forgive me for getting too personal, but I have a math problem for you. Take your weight and multiply it by fifty. Now imagine being able to lift that amount of weight ... with your mouth! According to some scholarly sources that is precisely what ants do every day (about.com). Especially industrious are the female worker ants. These workers labor diligently to provide food for their colony, which can consist of millions of ants. Just let a single ant happen upon your carefully prepared picnic basket, and that lucky ant will leave a scent trail for other ants in their colony to follow. Before you know it, a whole army of ants will do their best to carry off the bounty prepared for your family's enjoyment.



Worker ants can often be observed busily going about the thankless but necessary job of constant housekeeping cleaning and expanding their colony, a business that usually involves them carrying burdens far heavier than themselves. This often requires feats of strength that would be equivalent to our being able to lift and walk off with an automobile.

Besides their great lifting ability, ants are also extremely fast for their size. If we could move as fast, in proportion to the size and speed of the ant, we could be competitive with the fastest racehorse in the Kentucky Derby!

Gifted with a divine helping of wisdom, King Solomon can be found carefully contemplating a colony of ants only to find in their industry an example worthy of our emulation (Proverbs 6:6-11). He saw in these little creatures a drive to accomplish for the needs of today while wisely making preparations for tomorrow. Quite powerful lessons we can gain from such a tiny insect.

--David Bragg (via Bulletin Gold)

PRAYER LIST



Grace Lyon has been released from the hospital and is at home recovering. Please pray for **Bill** also, he is recovering from a fall.


Audrey Anna Young, has been dealing with the Covid 19 virus. She has started improving.

Amanda (Dye) Martin, has been diagnosed with Graves' Disease. She is to begin treatments soon.

Helen DePriest has been moved to Union County Health on Bratton Rd. She is recovering from a broken hip.

Shelley Clayton is still being treated for pneumonia but finally tested negative for Covid 19. She has also undergone tests due to swallowing problems that begin with the virus.

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 Grimmitt, Bill & Grace Lyon, Sue Marques, Peggy Miller, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Jerry Robbins, Gwyn Russell, 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...

The sign of a beautiful person is that they always see the beauty in others.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- September 16..... Jim Gann
- September 23..... Shelly Clayton
- September 23..... Helen DePriest

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- September 15..... Jerry & Eleta Grimmitt
- September 17..... Steve & Lana Todd



FALL PANTRY DRIVE

Pine Vale Children's Home is having it's Fall Pantry Drive. Our congregation has been asked to help by providing 9volt or AA batteries, Rotel, green beans and canned greens or spinach. A container will be placed in the foyer for these items. These items will be picked up around mid October. For other ways to help Pine Vale please check the bulletin board or go to their website.



JOIN US FOR WED. NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our Wed. night Bible Classes have resumed at the building and continue to be livestreamed as well. The adults will all meet in the auditorium and the 3rd grade-high school will meet with *Shaler* in the back parking lot or in the annex building.. Nursery—2nd grade will meet in their classrooms. 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.



AREA EVENTS

- A Gospel Meeting is going on this week at the East Main congregation in Tupelo. The guest speaker is *David Lipe*.
- An Area Wide Youth Planning meeting will be held Nov. 1st at 2pm, at the Mayfield congregation's fellowship hall.

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Volume 36

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.....Randy Wall
 Scripture.....David Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Kevin Simmons
 Closing.....Perry Jones
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.23rd/D. Coggin/R. Clayton
 Lock.....Matt Jennings
 UsherMark Jennings
 Security Matt Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....70
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Dried Beans

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Life's Snooze Alarm

The alarm blaring startled me awake. Just five more minutes, I told myself, as I banged around looking for the snooze button. Four times, I said, "just five more minutes" - Suddenly, it was nearly 30 minutes later than I was supposed to get up and I was in a panic. The rest of the day was thrown off kilter because of just five more minutes. I haven't decided if the snooze button is a great invention or a curse. I know it impacts me, because I'll play mind games with it. I'll set my alarm ten minutes early because I can "sneak" in a few extra minutes of sleep when it goes off. The quality of sleep isn't very good, but it seems so much better because it is some sleep I've managed to "steal." Truth be known. I would have slept better if I had set the alarm for the right time and simply got up with it.

I wondered this morning how often God had been calling me and I hit my internal snooze button instead. Just wait a little longer God, just a little longer, just a little longer. Suddenly, I'm running way behind and I missed out on the opportunity to listen or to serve. God puts someone on my heart and says, "Give them a call" or "Drop them a note." I reply, "Okay God, just as soon as I"; and then it's weeks later. I find out that in the interim, they had been going through a crisis time and really could have used some encouragement. We all do it, don't we? I think I do it less now than I used to earlier in my Christian walk, but I'm far from perfect. I'm so glad that He is a loving, patient and merciful God.

Martha would have made time with the Lord only after the house was perfect. (Luke 10:38-42) The disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane would have prayed with Jesus after a little nap (Matthew 26:36-43). When will you and I make time to listen and obey? Until next time, may we take the time with Him instead of playing games with life's snooze alarm.

Eric, via ~ Tynsgboro Church of Christ