



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

October 13, 2020

## Something We Should Never Say

By Joe *Chesser*



People say bad things all the time. I cringe inside when I hear people use God's name in inappropriate ways ("God" is often joked about, or used as a curse word, or most often merely as a common, ordinary expression of surprise – OMG!). God's name is holy and should never be used in these ways (Exodus 20:7). I also hate to hear people use vulgar, crude curse words in jokes, anger or just in daily conversations (I'll not give examples of this). God says to talk in this way is as out of place as sexual immorality (Ephesians 5:3-4).

But there's another phrase that people use that should never be said. I've heard it said in a variety of situations. Sometimes it's said when a marriage or a friendship goes sour. Sometimes it's said when a tragic, personal injury has been inflicted. I've even heard it said by people at church in reaction to some ungodly action or words. It's very likely that you also have heard someone say after being deeply hurt by what another person said or did. What is said is, "I will never forgive him for that! I just can't!"

I shudder when I hear people say that! Not because the words themselves are so bad, but because of what those words say about a person's heart and how he views God. We live in a cruel world. Satan is all around us doing evil things through people all the time. I mean really bad things: murdering children, beating a wife, stealing your life's savings through fraud, splitting churches, slandering reputations, hurting others while driving drunk, etc. But we should never think, feel or say, "I can never forgive him for that!" That's a reaction that only Satan wants us to have. And if we harbor hatred and unforgiveness in our hearts, we are the one who will suffer the most. It will eat us up!

I marvel at the heart of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). Because his brothers' hearts were filled with hatred and jealousy toward him, they sold him as a slave to foreign traders. Eventually he was bought by Potiphar in Egypt. However, when Potiphar's wife lied about him, he was put in prison and forgotten. Much later, through the providence of God, Joseph's brothers came humbly before him begging for help. If Joseph had been like many of us, hatred would have so filled his heart at what they had done to him that he would have jumped at the chance for revenge. Instead he had a heart for God; he had a heart filled with forgiveness. What others intended as evil Joseph saw God's goodness.

Even in the worst of circumstances a person can choose to let God's love and forgiveness rule their hearts. It's not easy. Nobody ever says forgiveness is easy. Just ask Jesus on the cross! It's easier to scream and cry, to hate and retaliate. But, if we let God's love rule our hearts and with that love find the strength to forgive, we'll find a peace that goes beyond description (Philippians 4:6-7). Like Joseph, we'll rise above the evil around us into the heart of God. "I forgive you" is something we will never regret saying!

## The Ultimate Snub

Insulting God used to produce gasps and raised eyebrows. Today it's pretty much standard fare. But it's nothing new! Some 600 years before the birth of Jesus, King Jehoiakim of Judah demonstrated his disdain for God and His word in what might be viewed as the ultimate snub.

The Lord had been warning His people for centuries that He would send them into captivity unless they turned from their wicked ways. Jeremiah and other faithful prophets endured abuse ranging from mockery to imprisonment and death as they spoke truth from God.

Shortly after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem (606 BC), God told Jeremiah to write all of his previous prophecies on a scroll and have them read to the people in hope that they would repent (Jeremiah 36:1-3). The warning shocked the people, especially those in the king's administration. They arranged for Jehoiakim himself to hear Jeremiah's words from the scroll.

The king's servant, Jehudi, read from the scroll. *"And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed"* (36:23).

Burning the scroll didn't keep its warnings from happening. Jerusalem's condition continued to deteriorate. Finally, in 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar attacked for the final time, destroying the temple, sacking the city, slaughtering almost everyone, and carrying the survivors into captivity.

Today the Bible suffers more from neglect than from people trying to destroy it. Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away"* Let us not snub God by ignoring His word. Instead, store it up in your heart to keep you from sin (Psalm 119:11). ~ Joe Slater

## The Weaver

*My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me,  
I cannot choose the colors  
He worketh steadily.  
Oft times He weaveth sorrow,  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I, the underside.  
Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.*

## A Word Repeated

Gathering the family together at the table for the evening meal required but two words—words that rang through the house and, frequently, out the back door. "Supper's ready!" was a welcomed invitation, needing no follow up exhortation. We were slowed to the table only by the occasional "Go wash your hands!" prerequisite. Few occasions were met with such willing cooperation.

Other events were met with passive resistance. Lively feet dancing to the table twelve hours previous were strangely replaced by their dragging counterparts at the prospect of getting ready for school. "Hurry up, you're going to be late!" sometimes gave way to a louder and more threatening, "Hurry! Hurry!"

A word repeated carries greater impact. Repetition can be used as a warning. Imagine alerting someone to the presence of a fire without loudly and forcefully repeating, "Fire! Fire!" Jesus used name repetition as a warning of coming danger or judgment as in the case of Simon (Lk. 22:31) and Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37).

Other times, Jesus used repetition to indicate the certainty of what He was about to say. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:6). Twenty-four times such statements are found in the gospel of John—a gospel written with the intent of producing confident trust in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31).

Finally, there is the repetition of Jesus at the cross where He was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities (Is. 53:5). Having no sin; He became sin on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21). Acquainted with grief, the man of sorrows, in His indescribable anguish and sorrow, twice repeats the name of His beloved Father as He cries out in a loud voice, saying, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Mt. 27:46). Indeed, a word repeated carries great impact.  
—Glen Elliott—

## Lessons from a Child

A father started to read a magazine, but his little girl Jessica kept interrupting him. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his magazine on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Jessica and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."

After a few minutes, Jessica returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where he belonged, then the world came together." ~ copied

# YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; Wed. @ 6:30

## PRAYER LIST



**Ricky Adams**, father of *Richard Adams*, is scheduled for back surgery Oct. 29th.

**Brandon Jones**, son of *Perry & Gloria* will be traveling overseas to work and requests prayers for his safety.

**Shelley Clayton** is improving and able to work some.

### Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, Helen DePriest, Amanda Dye, J.L. Eaton, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Bill & Grace Lyon, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Jerry Robbins, Gwyn Russell, Charles Ulmer, 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



## YOUTH NEWS

- ◇ All youth classes will resume as usual Oct. 18th. The teenage class will be in the annex and the younger classes in the main building.
- ◇ Remember to bring \$5 Wed. Oct. 14th, for your meal and a pumpkin to carve. The event will begin at 5:00.
- ◇ 'Trunk or Treat' is scheduled for Sat. night Oct. 31st, at Phil Young's tractor shed at 5pm. More details announced next week.



### I've Learned...

..you don't have to attend every argument you're invited to.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- October 16. ....Jodi Parks
- October 18. ....Rex Bell
- October 27. ....Peyton Coggin
- October 27. ....Mark Jennings
- October 29. ....Phil Young
- October 31. ....Steve Todd

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- October 17. ....Tim & Kathy Dye
- October 27. ....Jason & Amy Jennings



## CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to *Martin & Erica Crotts* on the birth of their son **Wilkin (Wilkes) Paul Crotts**. *Wilkes* was born Fri. Oct. 9th, and was 8lbs 13oz and 21 in. Both mom and baby are home and doing well. Welcoming *Wilkes* are big sister *Mary Martin* and big brothers *Dex* and *Jake*. Proud grandparents are *Shane & Barbara Crotts*, *Paul & Maria Ormon* & great-grandmother *Mable Erwin*.

## FALL PANTRY DRIVE



Sunday Oct. 18th is the last day to bring requested items for Pine Vale Children's Home Fall Pantry Drive. The needed items are 9volt or AA batteries, Rotel, green beans and canned greens or spinach. Thank you to all who have helped with this good work.

## GUEST SPEAKER OCTOBER 25TH

Sunday, October 18th, we will have *Tim Dooley* as our guest speaker. *Bro. Dooley* is interested in our minister's position. He will be teaching the adult Bible class in the auditorium as well as bring our morning lesson at 10:30. On Sat. night, October 17th, we will have a drive-by meet and greet with *Tim* and his wife *Colleen*.



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

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October 13, 2020

Volume 40

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 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 Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 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.....Paul Ormon  
 Scripture.....Kurt Clayton  
 A.M. Prayer...Mason Simmons  
 Closing.....Joe Owens  
 P.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 Wed.21st. /R. Clayton /G. Clayton  
 Lock.....Greg Clayton  
 Usher .....Roger Clayton  
 Security .....Matt Jennings

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....96  
 Sunday A.M.....101  
 Sunday P.M.....  
 Wednesday.....61  
 Contribution.....NA  
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

## PANTRY ITEMS

Gravy Mixes



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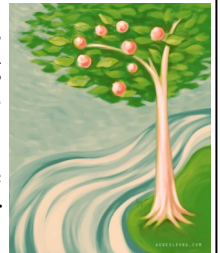
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## The Christian Tree

If a Christian were a tree, what should it look like?

- It would have roots that grow downward. Roots help with strength and stability. Roots also bring nutrients to the tree. Deeply rooted in the Scriptures the Christian can stand strong.
- It would be healthy inward. A tree must be healthy from the inside out. Spiritual health for the Christian begins with the heart.
- It would stretch up ever upward. A tree is always growing, Stretching its leafy branches toward the sky. The Christian must Ever be growing toward and pointing to heaven.
- It would produce fruit outward. A fruit tree yields much produce. The Christian is to be productive in good works and fruit of the Spirit.



*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jer.17:7-8)*

By Edd Sterchi