

THE INFORMER

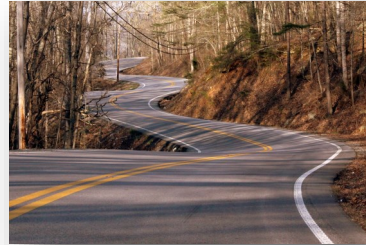
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

October 20, 2020

Lean On The Lord!

Dan Gulley



The Tail of the Dragon” is the ride of your life if you like riding a motorcycle on mountain roads. “The Dragon,” as it is known to many, is an eleven mile stretch of US Highway 129 that runs along Deals Gap, a mountain pass along the North Carolina and Tennessee state line. We expect mountain roads to be curvy, but the Tail of the Dragon has more twists and turns than an eleven-mile-long pretzel! Those eleven miles, bordered by the Great Smoky Mountains and Cherokee National Forest, have 318 really tight curves. My brother-in-law and I rode our motorcycles along The Dragon some ten years ago. The road has no houses, driveways, or intersecting highways – just 11 miles of thrills and chills and pure, adrenaline-producing curves as you roll along, leaning first one way, then the other. When you ride the Tail of the Dragon, one thing becomes crystal clear – because of the curves, you can’t see very far ahead!

The highway of life is much like, and unlike, the Tail of the Dragon. Like it, in that life is filled with constant curves that prevent us from seeing clearly with absolute clarity, curves requiring careful navigation. But unlike the curves on the Tail of the Dragon, curves on the highway of life are most often not things any of us are attracted to or seek out for pleasure. As was said long ago, so it can still be said – “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). James 4:13-14 warns against thinking the straight stretch of life you may be on will always be free of curves. James rebukes us for making plans and predicting exactly where we’ll be and what we’ll be doing and how much profit we’ll be making a year into the future, all the while with no reference to or regard for the sovereign will of God. With a verbal warning sign about sharp curves ahead we can’t see around, James reminds us we cannot predict how curve-free our lives will be a day from now, let alone a year – “whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow.” Our journey in life prone to blind curves that make the future unclear and unpredictable.

Question – has the year 2020 turned out the way you thought it would? A tiny, vile little thing called a coronavirus (Covid-19), unheard of by most of us until a few months ago, has affected all of us in one way or the other. There’s no need for me to repeat things you’ve already heard scores of times about Covid-19. But Covid-19 was a curve – an unexpected, sharp and frightening twist – in our free-wheeling, warp-speed, go- where-we-want and do-what-we-want way of life in America. You have to slow down to take a sharp curve – and boy, oh boy, has the corona-curve slowed us down! Someone said God makes bends in the road because He doesn’t want us to see too far ahead. It’s hard to argue with that when 2 Corinthians 5:7 calls to all those who follow Christ to “*walk by faith, not by sight.*” Proverbs 3:5-6 gives a sure way to negotiate unexpected curves that pop up along our journey through life – “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*” This passage is not promising life will be without curves, conflict, and even a Covid-19 pandemic. What it promises is that in view of eternity the safest and surest, and ultimately the only way to make it through life – whether straight stretches or sharp and dangerous curves we can’t see around – is to lean not on human wisdom and schemes, but ultimately on the Lord. There’s no curve He can’t safely see you through. Are you leaning on Jesus?

A Man Fell

I was connecting in Dallas for my flight back to Denver and had just come down the escalator from the Sky Link. Around the corner from me, I heard an agonizing cry. At first, I didn't recognize it for what it was. Then, I heard it again. And again. It was chilling. Walking just a few steps, I saw the source. A large man was lying face down in the middle of the concourse. He was immobile. Several people were gathering around him, but no one seemed to know what to do. Most had no idea what had happened to him. I feared it was a heart attack and wondered if this was going to be a fatal event. EMTs soon arrived with a gurney to administer aid to this traveler. While I have no idea how this will turn out, what struck me was the looks on everyone's faces. He was trying to maintain his dignity, but people everywhere around this scene were visibly distraught and felt for this man. They looked fearful or at least concerned. Things like this do not happen every day, to say the least.

Seeing this unforgettable scene made me appreciate the sober picture God has painted for us in His Word about those who are separated from Him. Galatians 5:4 terms it "fallen from grace." Hebrews 6:6 speaks of some who have "fallen away." Revelation 2:5 reveals that the Ephesus church had "fallen." Jesus speaks of some who "fall away" (Luke 8:13). Romans 11:11 speaks of one stumbling so as to fall. The rich can fall (1 Tim. 6:9), but so can any child of God (Heb. 4:11; 2 Pet. 3:17). Repeatedly, this imagery is used of those who enter spiritual peril. It's a dangerous position!

How often do I look at the people I encounter every day, who may seem physically fit and strong, but whose sins are not covered by Christ's blood? Do I realize how dire their situation is? Too often, I'm afraid I don't. As I looked at this poor, fallen man in Dallas, I thought about his soul. But in those moments, I did not think as soberly about the souls of the concerned onlookers. Statistically speaking (cf. Mat. 7:13-14), nearly all of them had to be traveling the broad rather than the narrow way. Would you help me to see the souls of men in this way, to feel a concern and sense of urgency for them? I know the Great Physician and know that He can help every case! May God grant us the courage to step through the open doors that may spell the eternal difference between life and death!

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Who Said It Quiz

1. Who Said: "Let me die with the Philistines." _____ Judges 16:30
2. Who Said: "What is truth?" _____ John 18: 37,38
3. Who Said: "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men." _____ Acts 20:26



The Importance of Being Involved

Benjamin Franklin is quoted, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Have you ever heard of "experiential learning"? It is essentially "learning by doing." Hands-on learning is one of the best ways to take in and retain information. Think about it. How many times have you forgotten something someone has told you? Maybe you remember many things you were taught, but this does not mean that you know how to apply those things. Yet, when you learn something by experiencing it, you have just attained some very useful and practical knowledge. For example, take riding a bike. Someone can tell you how to ride it, but that will not help you do it. Someone can teach you the in's and out's of bicycles and how to ride them, but that still does not grant you the ability to ride it. Hopping on and trying it out for yourself is the only way truly to learn how to ride, and you will keep that knowledge for the rest of your life. Remember the old saying, "It's like riding a bike, you never forget."



Let us now apply this to our walk with Christ. Someone can tell you how to live faithfully to Christ, but that is easily forgotten. Someone can tell you how to live faithfully to Christ, but that is easily forgotten. Someone can teach you the Bible, but what is the use if you lack the knowledge of how to apply it (cf. James 1:21-25)? Yet, when someone shows you how to live the Christian life, and you start putting those things onto practice, you have learned and will never forget. So you see the point? Live out your Christianity every day with good works and righteous living, as well as involving someone else in those things as well. You will have done your Christian duties and taught someone else to do the same.

Jon Ledbetter

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

PRAYER LIST



Bailey Mayer, daughter of *Richard Adams* has Covid-19.

Madison Hardy, five year old from New Albany has been diagnosed with cancer. She is currently at Le Bonheur receiving treatments.

Lake Tremble, nephew of *Amanda Coggin* has been diagnosed with a cyst on his brain.

Ronnie Miller, father of *Amanda Coggin* continues to deal with health problems.

Chris Bradley of the Hwy 178 congregation, is in Baptist East following a heart attack and stroke.

Perry Jones is having some health problems.

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

Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Helen DePriest, Amanda Dye, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Brandon Jones, Bill & Grace Lyon, Ronnie Miller, Olivia Pounders, Jerry Robbins, Gwyn Russell, Charles Ulmer, William Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, J. L. Eaton, 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...

God's plans will always be greater and more beautiful than all your disappointments.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



October 27..... Mark Jennings

October 28..... Peyton Coggin

October 29..... Phil Young

October 31..... Steve Todd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 27..... Jason & Amy Jennings



GUEST SPEAKER OCTOBER 25TH

Sunday, October 25th, 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 24th, at 5:00pm, we will have a drive-by meet/greet with *Tim* and his wife *Colleen*. Please make every effort to be present Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to *Rex & Jennie Bell* on the birth of a great granddaughter, *Charlotte Ann Lustig*. She was born Oct. 13th, in Birmingham. *Charlotte* weighed 7lbs 12oz. 21.25 in. She is being welcomed by her parents *Matt & Haley Lustig* and big sister *Mary Alyse*.

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.
- ◇ 'Trunk or Treat' is scheduled for Sat. night Oct. 31st, at *Phil Young's* tractor shed at 5pm. Hot dogs and chili are on the menu. If you have any questions please see *Mark and Alyce Jennings*.

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY!

"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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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 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.....Owen Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Steve Todd
 Closing.....Joe Owens
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.28th.... /L. Cobb /D. Coggin
 Lock.....Mark Jennings
 UsherShane Crotts
 SecurityPhillip Young

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....62
 Sunday A.M..... 81
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....NA
 Contribution.....NA
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS

Gravy Mixes



THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

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 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
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Keep The Lamp Burning

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Once during my childhood, a storm left our home without electricity for most of the day. As it began growing dark, my grandmother brought out a coal oil lamp and lit it. It was the first time I had ever seen one in use. I studied it for a long time, transfixed by the light. My grandmother, amused by my reaction, told how her family once used them in their home.



While telling her story, she explained the different parts of a lamp. The oil reservoir and chimney are most important, but the wick is of particular significance. A wick must be properly trimmed and shaped in order for the lamp to function properly. An improperly -trimmed wick will either lead to an irregular flame or excessive smoke, thereby diminishing the light.

Viktor Frankl once wrote, *"What is to give light must endure burning."* Jesus, in Matthew 5:14, described believers as *"the light of the world,"* all the while encouraging them to *"let your light shine before men."* Situations will arise that may threaten the light, but the child of God must "trim the wick" and keep the fire burning.

How brightly is your light shining?

--Kenny Westmorland (Celina, TN)