



THE INFORMER

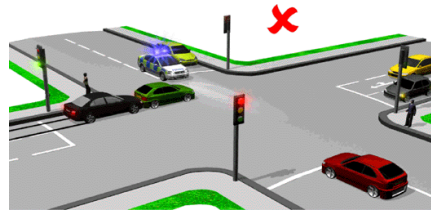
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 5, 2021

Stop Here To Actuate Signal

By Tim Dooley



At most every lighted intersection there are wide, visible white lines, painted horizontally across the road indicating where the driver should stop and wait for a green light. At many of these stops you will find a sign that reads something like this, “Stop here to actuate signal.” The word actuate is a transitive verb which means, “to put into mechanical action or motion” or “to move to action.” So if you pull too far forward of the line or stop too short of the line you will NOT actuate the signal and you may find yourself sitting there for a very long time.

It never ceases to amaze me how some folks will pull a full car length forward of these lines and wait for a green light and then get angry because the light does not change. Some I have seen purposefully disregard the red light and make an illegal turn because of their own ineptness at following simple traffic maneuvers. I have even witnessed some stop too short of the line and anger those behind them because the light will not cycle for them. Some of these lines are also staggered so to allow vehicles turning across lanes ample room to negotiate the turn. Those who pull too far forward of this line can impede traffic or cause an accident.

It personally frustrates me to witness these situations! I have even at times slowed down and advised the driver (who has been unwilling or unable to properly follow simple, logical instructions) of their incompetence. However what really bothers me the most is how this all translates spiritually.

God has said in His Word that we are not to “go beyond” that which is written. 2 John 1:9 reads, “*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*” The word “transgresses” here means in part, “to go past or pass over without touching a thing...to overstep, neglect, violate, transgress.” In other words, if we desire God’s mercy, grace, blessings, and salvation then we must stop where He says to stop in order to actuate those things in our lives. If we stop short or go beyond what He has told us, then we will fail to receive that which we desire of Him.

The old adage “Ignorance of the law is no excuse” is relevant here. The King James Version translates 1 John 3:4 like this, “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*” Other translations use the word “lawlessness” for transgression. The idea here is of someone acting in violation of the law either by blatant disregard or by ignorance.

Friends, we cannot add to or take away from the Word of God and receive His spiritual blessings (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18–19). The wise man hears and does what God says (Matthew 7:24). Not only will those who fail to know and do God’s will not receive His blessings, but they will receive His wrath (2 Thessalonians 1:8). My friend, it is imperative that we obey Him (Hebrews 5:8–9). Do not stop too short or pull too far ahead of God and His Word. His Word is that wide, white line whereat we must stop in order to actuate the mercy, grace, blessings, and salvation of He offers.

SUPPOSE

"Suppose," said I, that you should see
A small boy tumble from a tree;
How would you tell that tale to me?"

"Why, dad," said he, "I'd simply say,
I saw a fellow hurt today,
And two men carried him away."

"How many injured would there be," I asked?
"Just one, of course," said he,
"The boy who tumbled from the tree."

"No, no," I answered him,
"That fall which hurt the lad brought pain to all,
Who knew and loved that youngster small."

"His mother wept, his father sighed,
His brothers and sisters cried,
And all his friends were hurt inside."

"Remember this your whole life through;
Whatever may cause hurt to you
Must hurt us all who love you too."

"You cannot live your life alone;
We suffer with your slightest groan
And make your pain and grief our own."

"If you should do one shameful thing,
You would not bear alone the sting;
We'd spend our years in suffering."

"How many hurt?" We cannot state.
There never falls a blow of fate
But countless people feel its weight."
- Edgar A. Guest

"DO BETTER NOW, MY CHILD"

He came to my desk with a quivering lip;
The lesson was done.
"Dear Teacher, may I have a new page?" he said,
"I've spoiled this one."
I took the old page, stained and blotted,
And gave him a new one, all unspotted.
And into his trouble eyes I smiled,
"Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul;
The old year was done.
"Dear Master, may I have a new year?" I said,
"I've spoiled this one."
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, all unspotted.
And into my troubled soul, He smiled,
"Do better, now, my child."
~Author unknown ~

You Think You Have It Hard?

As we struggle with our daily walk, it is easy to start feeling sorry for ourselves. After all, we are trying to live pure lives in the midst of a very wicked world. There are temptations and trials on every hand. And, on top of that, if we take firm stands on moral or doctrinal principles some of our own brethren will likely brand us as 'fanatical' or 'extreme.' It's often hard to do what is right under such circumstances.

But, wait! As we read our Bibles we see that God's faithful people have always suffered for their convictions. The enemies of truth have consistently persecuted anyone who tried to do right. And, quite often, the strongest persecutions have come from people who claimed they were doing the will of God. Take a moment to recall how the prophets of the Old Testament were mistreated. Think about how the early Christians suffered for their faith. Recall the ultimate example — that of Jesus and how the Jewish leaders cried out to have Him brutally murdered.

Furthermore, we should take note of the fact that there are many places in the world today where people are severely persecuted for trying to serve God. In China, "the communist government has called for the eradication of the independent Christian movement . . . believers are arrested for holding prayer meetings, preaching and distributing Bibles." In Sudan, those who profess Christianity are being "crucified, kidnapped and often sold into slavery . . . Evidence suggests that entire male populations of villages have been crucified, including boys as young as nine years old." In Saudi Arabia, people endure "severe beatings and imprisonment for professing their faith." (all quotes via Washington Watch, a publication of Family Research Council).

Yes, it's hard sometimes, but "ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4). *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."* (Deut. 31:6). - by Greg Gwin

The Optimist And The Pessimist

Twixt the optimist and the pessimist
The difference is quite droll;
The optimist sees the doughnut,
But the pessimist sees the hole!



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

PRAYER LIST



Grace Lyon, heart procedure went well this past week. Please continue to also pray for *Bill* as well.

Eleta Grimmett has pneumonia, but not Covid.

Steve & Lana Todd have been diagnosed with Covid.

Hunter Jennings has been diagnosed with Covid.


Ansley Thompson, student from Ingomar was diagnosed with a brain tumor and is being treated at St. Jude.

Ronnie Miller, father of *Amanda Coggin* has been moved to Pontotoc Health and Rehab, to regain some of his strength.

Harold Russell is slowly improving from his recent back surgery. He will have more tests this week.

Sue Marques is now at home slowly improving. She is undergoing therapy from home. Please pray for *Bobby* as well.

Sympathy:

 We express our sympathy to the family **Danny Sanders** of Corinth, who passed away Dec. 30th. He was an uncle of *Alyce Jennings*. Funeral services were held Jan. 2nd, in Corinth.

Continue to Remember:

Chris Bradley, Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Earnestine Dye, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Madison Hardy, Debra Harville, Andrea Hill, David Holmes, Alfred Jones, Gloria Jones, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Lake Tremble, Terri Turner, Charles Ulmer, William Wilson family, Dixie White, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Bill & Grace Lyon, Nancy Petrowski,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, J.D. Stroud

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

I've Learned

If you are living your life angry at the world and all you have is a hammer, everything looks pretty much like a nail!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 05. Linda Ashmore
January 06. Yolanda Stubblefield
January 07. Kathy Dye
January 11. Alvin Parks
January 15. Jake Crotts
January 15. Jason Jennings
January 15. Kelsey Petrowski

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 11. Greg & Kim Clayton
January 11. Olen & Linda Clark



YOUTH NEWS

Friday night Jan. the 8th, the high school youth will meet at the building at 6:30. Please eat before you come. See *Shaler* if you have any questions.



Letter from the Elders

As we all know, the Covid virus has had a spike over the last week or so. We would like to remind each of you to maintain social distancing, continue to wash your hands on a regular basis, and please observe an empty pew in every other row while here in the church building.

Please remember that the CDC highly recommends that we wear our mask, not only to protect ourselves but others around us.

You'll notice that we have purchased and placed additional hand sanitizer stations in the lobby for your use.

We ask that you continue to observe these procedures so that we can keep each of you safe as possible while here in the building. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep the congregation informed.

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)

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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January 05, 2020

Volume 01

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTERS

Tim Dooley.....859-486-4215
 Shaler Grigsby...Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office.....662-534-4649

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....Kevin Simmons
 Scripture.....Thomas Wall
 A.M. Prayer.....Phil Young
 Closing.....Mason Simmons
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed 13rd....Phillip Y./ Ruston A.
 Lock.....Mark Jennings
 UsherMark Jennings
 SecurityGreg Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....82
 Sunday A.M.....100
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....74
 Contribution.....NA
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS

Cereal



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Easy?

- * It is easier to COMPROMISE the truth than to STAND for it.
- * It is easier to IGNORE sin than TO expose it.
- * It is easier to JUSTIFY the sinner than to DEMAND repentance.
- * It is easier to CRITICIZE the preaching of the truth than to ENDORSE it.
- * It is easier to BE SILENT than to CONTEND for the faith.
- * It is easier to REFUSE an admonition than to RECEIVE it.
- * It is easier to be WORLDLY Than to be GODLY.
- * It is easier to COMMIT sin than to AVOID it.
- * It is easier to NEGLECT than to TAKE HEED.
- * It is easier to MAKE EXCUSES than to BE FAITHFUL.
- * Why is this true? Simply because it is easier to travel the BROAD WAY than it is to travel the NARROW WAY (Matthew 7:13-14)!

~ Author unknown ~