



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 12, 2021

Making Our Calling and Election Sure

By Tim Dooley

In 2 Peter chapter one Peter, wrote to those of us “who have obtained like precious faith.” The faith that saves us from our sins and gives us hope, peace, and joy. Faith that is more than a simple acknowledgment of a fact, but an obedient belief in Christ, His church, and the plan delivered unto us once and for all time (Jude 3). He tells us that God’s divine power has “given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue.” And that by this power we have received “exceeding great and precious promises” and have become “partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world...” (vs. 1–4)

But then notice that Peter says we are not done yet. As Paul would say we “have not yet attained” (Philippians 3:12). No, this is just the beginning of our journey. We must begin to add to our lives daily the Christian Graces (faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love). As Christians we must be fruit bearers (John 15:4–8) and these are the things we should be striving after in order that we be neither barren nor unfruitful (vs. 5–9)

Yet notice the nine-pound hammer blow of verse ten. “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” The weight of this verse is felt when we come to an understanding of this truth. He says first that we must “give diligence.” The Greek word here means to be “quick” or “use speed” in endeavoring, laboring, or studying. In other words, the Christian should waste no time or effort in being the fruitful servant that God expects His disciples to be. We are quick to do many things in this life that we find important. What does it say when we then are not quick to be living for Him?

Second, we are to be quick and laborious in making our “calling and election sure.” The Greek word here means “stable, firm, of force, steadfast.” God has called us to peace (1 Corinthians 7:15). He has called us to holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7). He has called us unto eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10). In verse three of our text we read that He has called us to “glory and virtue.” In 2 Timothy 1:9 Paul says that God has called us, “with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” He has made us His own chosen people and brethren we should be quick and eager to cement that blessed privilege!

Third, this verse teaches that we can indeed fall away. The Calvinistic theology of “once saved, always saved” cannot hold up to the inspired apostolic truth. Peter clearly teaches that if we are quick to establish ourselves in the discipleship of the Lord we are creating within our lives a foundation for success. But if not, we will surely fall!

Lastly, consider one other principle that I believe we can draw from this text. It never ceases to amaze me when individuals claim they want to be right with God, His Son, and the church, but are not willing to do the things necessary to make their calling and election sure. The heart of each of us should be the heart of Saul in Acts 9:6, “Lord, what will you have me to do?” What do you need to do today to make your calling and election sure? Be obedient and be faithful!

When Dressing, Put on a Smile

Steven Clark Goad

We live in a time when fashions can become obsessions with us. Garments are constantly changing style as the fashion designers dictate what the “re-spectable” people will be wearing this season. And some Christians seem to be caught up in the whirlwind of flashy clothes and all the trinkets that go with them. Sure, God wants us to be properly clothed at all times, but it becomes very easy to take advantage of the accessibility of clothes and become nothing more than breathing mannequins.

Christians must allow the purity of the Christian heart to decide what will be worn in public. I know of a woman who is a member of the church who must have a fabulous wardrobe. She always has something on which looks as though it came directly from the department store window. And if she wears the same dresses more than once, she does so at such intervals that no one could tell that she did not have access to an infinite variety of garments. But though her clothing is the latest in styling and usually very modest, she always appears a bit underdressed. Her countenance seems naked. She rarely has a smile or a kind word for anyone.

The expression of a Christian life can be the most precious of garments. It really isn't what one wears on the outside that draws people, but what one is inside. Some of us haven't learned this yet. One of the most obnoxious “Christians” I have ever met is meticulous about his dress. What he doesn't realize is that if he changed his personality, he could wear bib overalls and people would still love him.

Paul warned of overdressing and suggests that there is a certain amount of judgment and discretion involved in deciding what to put on. *“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; but rather by means of good words, as befits women making a claim to godliness”* (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). When we slip into our clothes each day, we ought to be able to say, “Father, I know that you will be pleased with this outfit today.”

When dressing, it isn't really the material or the pattern of the garment that is of paramount concern, but rather, that we are wearing the Spirit of Christ (Gal. 3:27). Oh yes, there's one more thing. The next time you get dressed to go out — be sure to put on a smile!

via ~ *Bulletin Fodder*



“You shall therefore lay up words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, when you are walking by the way, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 11:18-20

BIBLE QUIZ: HEBREWS 4:11-13

1. “Let us therefore be _____ to enter that rest...”
2. “By what example might Christians fall?
_____”
3. “God’s word is sharper than a _____.”
4. Who can hide from God’s judgement? _____
5. “God’s word is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the _____.”



IT'S ALL UP TO ME

I cannot change others
But I can change me
I must learn to focus
Being the best I can be
When I change my outlook
And improve through and through
Amazingly I find
That others get better too.
~ Edd Sterchi ~



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

PRAYER LIST



Ricky Adams, father of *Richard Adams* is scheduled to have sinus surgery Jan. 22nd.

Andrea Hill, is scheduled to have surgery at UAB in Birmingham Jan. 26th.

Gail Clayton, aunt of *Richard Adams* is in the ICU in Amory with several issues.

Connie Phagen, sister-in-law of *Sue Marques* is in a GA hospital with double pneumonia.

Greg Hicks, nephew of *Betty Young* will have surgery on his neck Jan. 18th, in Jonesboro, AR.

Parents of *Terry Stubblefield* are recovering from Covid.


Ansley Thompson, student from Ingomar began treatments this week at St. Jude.

Ronnie Miller, father of *Amanda Coggin* is recovering at Pontotoc Health and Rehab.

Sue Marques continues to struggle with pain but it has lessened. Therapy has been stopped for the time being while the muscles heal.

Lekisha Harris requests prayers as she begins a new job. She will be traveling a great deal.

Sympathy:

 We express our sympathy to the family of **J.D. Stroud**, who passed away Friday Jan. 8th. Visitation is set for Wed. Jan. 13th, from 12:00-2:00pm, and services following, all at United Funeral Home in New Albany.

Continue to Remember:

Chris Bradley, Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Earnestine Dye, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, Debra Harville, Andrea Hill, David Holmes, Alfred Jones, Gloria Jones, Ronnie Miller, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Harold Russell, 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

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 15..... Jake Crotts
January 15..... Jason Jennings
January 15..... Kelsey Petrowski
January 16..... Pam Conquest
January 17..... Amy Jennings
January 21..... Audrey Anna Young
January 23..... Shane Crotts



PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to announce the following families who made known Sunday January 10th, of their desire to become a part of the New Albany congregation; Bill and Karen Botts, Andy and Victoria Brown and their son Ellis, and Mike and Janice Brown. We know they will be an asset to the work here at New Albany. Please welcome them to our church family. Their addresses, **Bill & Karen Botts**, 317 Tate Ave. N.A.; **Andy & Victoria Brown**, (in the process of building on CR 382, NA; **Mike & Janice Brown**, 1005 CR 368, N.A.

CARE GROUP NEWS

Our Care Groups will be assisting in the weekend feeding program for students at Myrtle and West Union Schools, once a month. Our groups will also be purchasing special items for Pinevale Children's Home, quarterly. We will be taking donations for these items so we can buy in bulk quantities. If you have any questions see *Shane Crotts* or your group leaders.

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

Owning a mistake is greater than faking perfection.



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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

THE INFORMER

January 12, 2021

Volume 02

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.....T. Stubblefield
 Scripture.....James Carter
 A.M. Prayer.....Greg Clayton
 Closing.....Larry Cobb
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed 20th...D. Coggin/ H. Russell
 Lock.....Steve Todd
 UsherRoger Clayton
 SecurityJason Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....84
 Sunday A.M.....91
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....74
 Contribution.....NA
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Chili

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

When Hate Dominates Your Thinking

This past week, we witnessed first-hand what happens when negative emotions are allowed to dominate our thinking. We watched as folks – most of which had good intentions – stormed our capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Property was damaged. Individuals were injured. People lost their lives. And now, their very cause has earned disrespect.

I am not going to get into the politics of the event but only point out that when negative emotions are allowed to dominate our thinking, similar chaos and rioting is often the result. In other places, like Austin, the same type of protest was made with a difference. It was peaceful and it didn't bring the same results.

God created us with emotions. They are good and each has its place in our lives. But the greatest emotion is love not hate (1 Corinthians 13). The love of God can cause us to hate. But it should not result in the hate of others. Only in the hate of the bad actions of others.

“By this,” says Jesus, “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

Larry Fitzgerald ~ via Bulletin Digest