



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

February 23, 2021

What Are You Willing to Die For?

By Tim Dooley

The Founding Fathers of this great nation knew well that some things were worth dying for. When they stood up against the oppressive tyranny of British despotism they were risking everything they had, including their lives. This prompted Benjamin Franklin to say, "We must hang together, gentlemen, or we will most assuredly hang separately." These men and countless others have been willing to lay down their lives for freedom.

Among all such men, Jesus of Nazareth stands as the greatest of them all. His life was lived for the soul purpose of dying. His life and his death would grant freedom to all men everywhere. He made the ultimate, supreme sacrifice for our freedom from the tyranny and repression of Satan. He paid the ultimate price so we wouldn't have too. On the cross of Calvary, he shed His blood for our sins, and reconciled us to a loving Father who wants us to be with Him in His eternal home.

While we talk of this gift being "free" (Romans 5:15-16) we have left many believing that nothing is required of them. It seems as if we have convinced ourselves of the same thing. While many have received the free gift of God's grace through Jesus they have opted to remain under the dominion of sin rather than applying the blessings of God's grace.

For the sacrifice of Christ to be beneficial to us Jesus says we must come to him (Matthew 11:28-30). This gift is not free in the sense that God does not demand something of us. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). We are told that God, "commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). Jesus forewarned that if we will confess him here he would likewise confess us before the Father. However, if we deny him here he will in like manner deny us before the throne in judgment (Matthew 10:32-33). Jesus also noted that, "he that believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16).

Pertinent to our discussion is that Christ demanded that we each take up our cross and follow him (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). The idea here is that we should be willing to die to ourselves in order to be pleasing unto He who died for us. In the verses that follow this clear statement Jesus says, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24).

Many first century Christians, and even some today, have paid the ultimate price to prove their devotion to Christ. This is simply what Christ meant when He told the church at Smyrna to, "be faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). Faithfulness means being willing to die for Him who died for us.

Let us ask ourselves, "what are we willing to die for?" It has been said that the guiding principles that strengthen our society are "God, Country, and Family." I know many lives have been given for defending the freedoms we claim to cherish so much. I know there are many who have given their lives in defense of, and salvation of, the lives of their families, but what about God?

Many refuse to obey the simplest of commands; we refuse to obey, attend Bible Studies and worship, serve the church and our neighbors, study, pray, give, love, and forgive. We place personal entertainment, hobbies, temporal earthly relationships and a plethora of other excuses above doing what is right in the sight of God.

It is time for all men, especially those of us who have availed ourselves of God's gift of grace and salvation, to take stock of our lives and what is most important. Then make the necessary changes in our lives to put God first. Be Faithful!

Show a Little Kindness

(NKJV)

1. Old Testament law required kindness to be shown to strangers as “one _____ among you” and to “_____ him as _____”. (Leviticus 19:34)
 2. Showing mercy and kindness to others will make one _____. (Proverbs 14:21)
 3. The virtuous woman extends her hand to the _____ and reaches out to the _____. (Proverbs 31:20)
 4. “Be _____ affectionate to one another with _____ love, in honor giving _____ to one another” (Romans 12:10)
 5. “_____ suffers long and is _____” (1 Corinthians 13:4)
 6. “And be kind to _____, _____, forgiving one another, even as _____ in Christ _____ you.” (Ephesians 4:32)
 7. As the _____ of God we should show tender _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. (Colossians 3:12)
 8. Kindness is listed as a _____ of the _____. (Galatians 5:22)
 9. God has shown His kindness toward us in _____. (Ephesians 2:7)
 10. When Christ came the _____ and _____ of God appeared to man. (Titus 3:4)
 11. The natives of Malta showed Paul and the others unusual _____. (Acts 28:2)
 12. The Most High God is also kind to the _____ and _____. (Luke 6:35)
- (copied)

The Climb

Two men were eager to climb the Matterhorn, a particularly steep and treacherous mountain. They hired three guides and started the climb. When they reached the steepest and most dangerous part, the men roped themselves together in this order: guide, traveler, guide, traveler, guide. On their way up, the guide at the back lost his footing. The other four men were able to hold him up until the next man slipped and pulled two others down with him. Being roped together, now all four men were held in place by the first guide at the top. Wisely, this man had driven a spike deep into the ice and anchored himself to the mountain. This allowed enough time for all of the men to regain their footing.



So much of our spiritual journey to heaven can feel like this climb. We have all lost our footing at one time or another (Romans 3:23). Thankfully, we have others there to help us when we slip (Galatians 6:1-2). Sadly, however, sometimes our slips take others down with us. Praise the Lord, however, that Christ is leading the way!

Christ will never slip or fall (Mark 16:19). He is our anchor, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19). He is our rock and our foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11). He is our Savior (1 John 4:14-16).

Christ will always stand strong. At times we may slip, but as long as we stay attached to Him, we will not fall.

~ Brett Petrillo ~

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

PRAYER LIST



Nancy Petrowski is to have a port installed Friday, in Greenwood, MS. She can then begin her dialysis treatments.

Eleta Grimmert is awaiting results of her recent tests. She is feeling much better.

Kathy Clayton has not been feeling well.

Luke Jennings, is scheduled for heart tests. The ones he has already had looked good.

Deborah Griffin received good news from her recent biopsy but will see an oncologist just to be sure.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Shelly Clayton, Grace Crotts, Shane Crotts, Earnestine Dye, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmert, Madison Hardy, Sue Marques, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Harold Russell, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Terri Turner, Charles Ulmer, William Wilson family, 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, Chase Seals

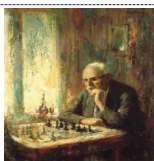


What Must I Do To Be Saved?

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

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action .



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 28..... Brian Carpenter
 March 06..... Janice Brown
 March 06..... Bill Lyon

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 01..... Larry & Janice Cobb



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

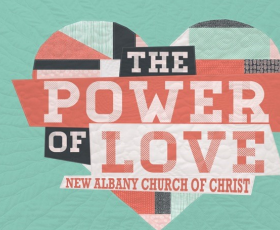
- NAYPE (New Albany Youth Prayer & Evangelism) meets every other Wed. night following Bible Study .
- Youth to attend CYC in Pigeon Forge TN, Feb. 26-28th. Please pray for their safety.
- Remember to bring Care Group items or give donations to either *Kurt Clayton* or *Brian Carpenter*.
- Help is needed to host the Youth Devo's through out the year. Please sign up to help.
- A new quarter for our Bible classes will start March 7th. Books for the auditorium class are on the back pew.
- We would appreciate getting everyone's email address. Please sign the list in the foyer.

FRIENDS / FAMILY DAY & GOSPEL MEETING



March 21-24 we will be holding a Gospel Meeting with *David Lipe* as our guest speaker. In conjunction with our Gospel Meeting we will have Friends and Family Day on Sunday, the 21st. It is not too early to begin inviting your friends and family as well as your neighbors. We will have more details in the coming weeks.

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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February 23, 2021

Volume 08

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....Richard Jennings
 Scripture.....Jackson Coggin
 A.M. Prayer....Kevin Simmons
 Closing.....Phil Young
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed Feb.24.D.Coggin /T. Dooley
 Lock.....Randy Wall
 UsherRandy Wall
 SecurityDan Cobb

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....90
 Sunday A.M.....119
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....NS
 Contribution.....\$5,456.00
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

PANTRY ITEMS



Bath Soap

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

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

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 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Do Clothes Make the Man?

(Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 11; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4)

There is an old proverb, It says clothes make the man.
 To say we're judged by our appearance sure seems to be the plan.

For us to be in style, to dress according to the trend,

Is it the way God wants me to look

And what message do I send?

When I go to a social activity all dressed to the "T".

Am I dressed provocatively so others will surely see?

Does the message on my shirt, a Christian's life convey?

Would this be something Jesus would wear

Or something He would say?

When I head to church, I should dress in a proper way.

Or do I look like I'm going to a picnic, Or going out to play?

The way that I present myself to others should be clear.

By my attire, can I present the Gospel Message for all to hear?

As God's special people we must also be aware.

To present ourselves in a modest way

Dress decently and with care.

~Jay Launius ~