



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

March 23, 2021

Who Are the Blessed?

Tim Dooley

Who are the blessed? The Christian will answer quickly, "All are blessed." And that is certainly true. Physically, the hand of God blesses us all. Jesus said, "*He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust*" (Matthew 5:45). The Psalmist penned the beautiful truth that God, "*...covers the heavens with clouds...prepares rain for the earth...makes grass to grow on the mountains. He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens that cry*" (Psalm 147:7-9).

And although we acknowledge this verbally, far too often we live in a completely contradictory way. We live in depression, jealousy, envy, strife, and anger. We are too frequently ungrateful, unthankful, and disrespectful. Shame on us when we live fifty weeks a year as spoiled children and only stop to be thankful for all we do have for the seven to fourteen days surrounding the Thanksgiving holiday each year.

Who are the blessed? I firmly and unequivocally declare that the Bible, in the clearest of terms, says that only those who are obedient and faithful children of God are blessed spiritually. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*" (Ephesians 1:3). That's right! Only those who are in Christ can be blessed by God spiritually and to be in Christ the Bible again clearly states that we must hear the Word of God (Romans 10:17); we must believe that Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son (Mark 16:16); we must be willing to repent of our sins (Acts 17:30); we must be willing to confess our faith in Him (Matthew 10:32-33); and we must be buried with Him in baptism for the remission of our sin (Acts 2:38). At this point we are added to His body the church (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13) and find ourselves in Christ (Galatians 3:27).

But not everyone who complies with these inspired prerequisites will continue to find themselves blessed spiritually. Generally speaking the Psalmist again wrote, "*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD!*" (Psalm 119:1). We are well aware that Jesus spoke of the blessed as those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who are meek, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful, who are pure in heart, who are peacemakers, and who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. You see how spiritual blessings do not rest solely on adhering to the steps of salvations but are reserved for those who walk in the light (1 John 1:7) and love Him enough to keep His commandments (John 14:15).

There are two other groups that the Bible says are blessed. The first group we read about in Luke 12:37-38 where Jesus says, "*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.*" Are you watching, waiting, thankful, every minute of every day? Are you ready? The second group is described for us in Revelation 14:13, "*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on' "*" "Yes," says the Spirit, "*that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.*" Oh, how I long to be blessed! Be faithful!

“I Can Do It Myself!”

Though often resistant to it and sometimes rebellious against it, help is our universal need. Most parents remember when that streak of independence rose to the surface in their child and they were strictly informed that they no longer needed any help. Proudly, but wistfully, parents take in these precious expressions of independence knowing that these provide marking posts along their child’s path to maturity. In everything from learning to walk to accomplishing amazing bathroom successes, children experience the rewards of independence.

However, independence is the result of accepting help along the way. Such help comes in the form of training, example, and encouragement. Where would we be without someone to teach us—to show us the way? Parents are teachers, training up children in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6). In this, there is both a physical and a spiritual component.

In Christ, our independence is the result of His great sacrifice. Paul simply says, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free...” (Gal. 5:1). Such independence is the result of accepting help. In spite of what the Humanist Manifesto says about the matter, we cannot save ourselves. Jesus spoke to certain Jews who believed in Him and, after admonishing them to continue in His word, said, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (Jn. 8:32). The truth under consideration is His word (Jn. 17:17).

Our basic need for enlightenment is evident. As Jeremiah so plainly stated in his prayer to the Father, “a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23). We need spiritual guidance. Worldly wisdom cannot lead us to God (1 Cor. 1:21). But, Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (Jn. 14:6). Salvation comes as a result of humbly receiving the word of truth (Jas. 1:21).

We are dependent on God for “life and breath and all things...” (Acts 17:25). How foolish to think that, when it comes to spiritual matters—matters of eternal significance—we are each free to choose our own path independently, apart from divine instruction! Though often couched in the language of freedom, the spiritual counsel of the world leads only to increasing bondage (2 Pet. 2:19). True spiritual freedom is the result obeying the gospel from the heart and becoming a slave of righteousness (Rm. 6:17-18). Know that the freedom and assurance we experience in Christ rests solidly on the fact that we lean upon Him as our helper (Heb. 13:6).
—Glen Elliott

A Dress Code for Worship? NO!

God does NOT have a dress code for worship! Of course He does not! He assumes that a humble worshipping heart will dictate proper attire and behavior. A true spirit of awe, reverence and worship dictates dignity and propriety in dress and demeanor. When we dress appropriately we manifest a humbleness of heart that honors and respects the sovereign God whom we have come to praise and petition. - selected



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)



FILL IN THE BLANK

“But _____ with _____ is great _____.” 1 Timothy 6:_____



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

PRAYER LIST



Larry Cobb received his test results and will not require treatment at this time.

Randy Wall was released from the hospital and is resting at home.

Luke Jennings received a good report from his recent CT scan.

Betty Boren had a heart cath last week.

Gloria Jones will have shoulder surgery Friday.

Susie Robertson mother of *Steve Hill*, has completed treatment for a brain tumor and is at home.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, Luke Jennings, Sue Marques, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Charles Ulmer, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, Joe Reed

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Bill Lyon

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 23..... Isabella McMillen
March 27..... Mary Martin Crotts
March 28..... Roger Clayton
March 29..... Caleb Jennings
April 03..... Shelley Adams

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 02..... Paul & Maria Ormon



BRIDAL SHOWER

There will be a come and go bridal shower for *Audrey Anna Young*, bride elect of *Blaine Potts*, Sunday, March 28th from 1:30-3:00 at the fellowship building. Men are welcome. They are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond, Target and Amazon.



NEW ADDRESSES

Andy, Victoria, and Ellis Brown 1015 CR 382 (Torrington Hills Drive) New Albany, MS 38652

Larry & Janet Drummond 305 Bright Avenue, New Albany, MS 38652

Bill Lyon MS State Veterans Home of Oxford, 120 Veterans Drive, Oxford, MS 38655

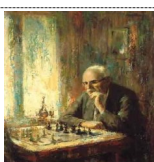
Please make these changes in your directory.

FACEBOOK UPDATE

On January 17th, we began airing and advertising Tim's Two Minutes on Facebook and YouTube. Since that time, 24,340 people within 15 miles of the church address have been reached. We are evaluating the expansion of this platform in order to reach those in our community. When talking with your friends, mention Tim's Two Minutes. Share our Facebook page (NAchurchofchrist) and ask them to follow us.

I've Learned

A good memory is fine, but the ability to forget is the true test of greatness.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- NAYPE (New Albany Youth Prayer & Evangelism) will meet March 24th.
- Deacons will meet Sun., March 28th at 8:30.
- There will be a Youth Devo Sun. night March 28th at the fellowship building. *Dane* and *Amanda Coggin* will host.

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 12

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 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.....R Jennings
 Scripture.....Clayton Hill
 A.M. Prayer.....H Jennings
 Closing.....Thomas Wall
 P.M. Prayer.....TBA
 Closing.....TBA
 Greeters.....S & L Todd
 Lock.....Mark Jennings
 UsherMark Jennings
 SecurityBrian Carpenter
 Wed. Open.....Greg Clayton
 Wed. Close.....Olen Clark

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....149
 Sunday A.M.....188
 Sunday P.M.....110
 Wednesday.....NA
 Contribution.....\$4,811.00
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

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Always Remember God Gives Enough ...



Happiness to keep you sweet,
 Trials to keep you strong,
 Sorrows to keep you happy,
 Failure to keep you humble,
 Success to keep you eager,
 Friends to give you comfort,
 Wealth to meet your needs,
 Faith to banish depression,
 Enthusiasm to make you look forward,
 Determination to make each day a
 better day than the last.

“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy
 thoughts shall be established.” *Proverbs 16:3*

