



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

August 17, 2021

Fear Is A Good Thing

Tim Dooley

One of our favorite television shows used to be "The Crocodile Hunter" and the various spin-offs based on the adventures of host Steve Irwin. For anyone unfamiliar with this man or his television shows, Steve was the director of the Australia Zoo and starred in his own television series. In his work he routinely wrestled crocodiles and alligators, pulled rattlesnakes out of their dens by the tail, picked up deadly poisonous vipers, and other assorted dangerous activities. All this in order to either rescue these creatures from danger or for the benefit of educating his audience about wildlife.

It was while watching one of these shows that Steve made a rather profound statement. While engaged in an episode with a very poisonous snake Steve professed to being a bit afraid and remarked, "But fear is a good thing, it keeps us alive." I immediately thought of how true that was, spiritually as well as physically.

The Bible is filled with references to fearing God. Why? Because the "fear of the Lord" will keep us alive. God's love for us is so great that He warns us of His righteousness and wrath. Paul warned the Roman church to take notice of both God's goodness and His severity (Romans 11:22). Solomon would write that *"though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him"* (Ecclesiastes 8:12). And, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man"* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

How does this work? Well, it is quite simple and maybe that is the problem so many have with this concept. The fear that we are talking about is the fear that breeds respect. With such respect, a heart and mind to listen is manifested. With an open heart and mind comes wisdom and understanding (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10). The fear of the Lord is strong confidence and a place of refuge, better than great treasure, the instruction of wisdom and how men know to depart from evil, and live (Proverbs 14:26; Proverbs 15:16; Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 16:6). *"The fear of the LORD tends to life: and he that has it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil"* (Proverbs 19:23). It *"prolongs days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened"* (Proverbs 10:27). "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:27).

Peter commanded, *"Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king"* (1 Peter 2:17). The church grew and was edified because the brethren feared the Lord (Acts 9:31). So we should understand that a great day is coming when God will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31) and that judgment will be based upon the words of Christ (John 12:48). Those who are disobedient to the gospel will find themselves lost eternally (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Steve Irwin died on September 4, 2006 after being fatally pierced in the chest by a stingray barb while filming in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. He, for a moment, had forgotten his own advice and did not proceed with fear and it cost him his life. Now do you see? Fear is a good thing. It will keep us alive, forever!

If Only I Had...

We all know the old saying, "Hindsight is 20/20". There's not a one of us who hasn't looked over our shoulder and questioned a decision or action committed in the past. Mistakes, misjudgments, tragedy and missed opportunity fill our memories and worry our minds. "If only I had...", begins a sentence of regret, wishing we had chosen a different path and perhaps the end results would have been different.

Regret is certainly one of the ironies of life because we learn and grow from those mistakes and missteps yet they are the things which make us sorry for the past! The first time we read of regret in the bible is in Genesis 6:6. Because of mankind's evil ways God was sorry that he had created such an unruly being. Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes the writer expresses much regret as to spending his life working, building and saving only to pass it on to someone else after he dies. Judas regretted the decision to betray Jesus and even though he repented the pain was such that he took his own life.

Why would God give us such a worrisome emotion? Because regret causes us to realize our need for change and the need for God's forgiveness and His salvation (2 Cor. 7:10). If I never felt remorse for my wrong doing I would never see the need to be obedient to God. Those who are accused of crimes have lawyers to be their advocates when facing judgment. You and I have an Advocate in Jesus Christ who goes to God on our behalf at the point of regret and confession.

"If only I had done things differently." Holding on to regret can weigh heavy on the heart but we must remember that Philippians 3:13 encourages us to let go of the past and move toward the future. A future filled with God's love, forgiveness and eternal reward.

~copied

The Mississippi Department of Health is urging everyone to wear a mask in all public indoor settings.

Opportunities to Serve

Below is a list of activities/projects in which our Care Groups are involved. Our aim is to better serve our community and one another. We encourage everyone to help in any way you can, no matter to which Care Group you are assigned. You may contact the person(s) listed next to each activity for detailed information.

- Food items for children at Myrtle School (Kurt)
- Supplies for Pine Vale each quarter (Kurt)
- Coloring Books/Crayons for Le Bonheur (Andy/Vic Brown, Kurt/Shelly)
- Snack bags and activity books for dialysis center (Brian, Matt, Shane)
- Food items for children at West Union School (Brian, Matt, Shane)
- Provide bags for foster children (Brian, Matt, Shane).
- Provide hygiene products for students. August-West Union; September-New Albany High School; October-Myrtle; November-New Albany Middle and NAES; December-East Union; January-Ingomar (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Caring for our church family (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Assist our elderly and the sick with yard work (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Run errands for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Prepare care boxes for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie)

A Plea to Those Who Lead Worship

- **Be Equipped**, prepared and ready to lead whatever part of the worship is your task.
- **Be Enthusiastic**, and hopefully your "face will really show it."
- **Be Encouraging**, remembering to focus on those who are there and not on those who are not present .
- **Be Energetic**, not frivolous or "over the top," but alive with passion for praising God.
- **Be Engaged**, knowing not only what you are doing, but also knowing what you are doing next.
- **Be Earnest**, a sincere, heartfelt worship leader whose main objective is to worship God.
- **Be Edifying** in your words, your tone and your every effort in leading.
- **Be Educational**, knowing that you teach and admonish also.
- **Be Emotional**, not sappy or pseudo-pious, but one whose heart is clearly into leading us in worship.

~Neal Pollard

YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; 1:15 Wed. @ 6:30



PRAYER LIST

Betty Young fell several days ago and sustained two fractures. Surgery is not required. The fractures should heal in a few weeks.

Luke Jennings is recovering following an asthma/allergy episode at school on Monday. He is awaiting results from blood tests.

Gloria Jones has the flu.

Dixie White's surgery went well.

April Pounders' surgery went well.

Arelus Dye received a good report from his doctor.

Billy Joe and Benita Garner need our prayers and encouragement.

Nora Stroupe is quarantined due to possible exposure to Covid.

Those with Covid:

Ricky & Betty Adams

Michelle Bellew (friend of the Stroupes, on ventilator)

Herb Dooley (Tim's father-not doing well)

Tim Ellis (Richard Adams' brother-in-law)

Perry Jones

Brandi McCullough (on ventilator, induced coma)

Hunter & Lauren Stanford (neighbors of the Ormons)

Continue to Remember:

Lynda Ball, Mitchel Barton, Kathy Clayton, Larry Cobb, Shane Crotts, Prebble Foster, Donnie Golden, Eleta Grimmatt, Madison Hardy, John Haynes, Caleb Jennings, Michele Kimsey, Myra Martin, Anderson Parks, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Susie Roberson, Novene Robertson, Joanna Ross, Harold Russell, Bobby Sweat, Bella Taylor, Ansley Thompson, Tommie Whiteside, Allie Williams, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

Helen DePriest, Kathy Dye, J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe & Benita Garner, Sue Marques, Nancy Petrowski

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Bill Lyon

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals

THANK YOU FROM PINE VALE

Thank you for the water and fresh meat you brought to us August 31, 2021. We are proud you support us in this special way. May God bless you in all your kind deeds.

Sincerely yours, Randy Collum, Executive Director

I've Learned

When you throw mud at someone, you're the one losing ground!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 19. Kim Clayton
 August 19. Kyleigh Sweezer
 August 20. Phillip Young

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 18. Shane & Barbara Crotts
 August 21. Roger & Kathy Clayton

YOU ARE INVITED

A 50th wedding reception will be held for Roger and Kathy Clayton Saturday, August 21st from 2:00-3:30p.m. at the fellowship building. No gifts please.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- **August 20** The Yahoo Group will meet at Coffey's Steak & Fish. Leave the church building at 4:30p.m. or meet at Coffey's at 5:00p.m. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer.
- **August 21** 50th Wedding Reception for Roger & Kathy Clayton
- **August 22** Care Group #1 (Kurt/Dane) will meet at the fellowship building after the morning service. Lunch will be potluck.
- **August 22** Care Group #3 (Kevin Simmons) will meet in room 12 immediately following the morning service.
- **August 28-29** Widowhood Workshop with Dean Miller. Please pick up some flyers from the table in the foyer and share with your family, friends and businesses. Please sign up.
- **August 29** Youth Devo-Brian & Shelby Carpenter hosting
- **September 12** Kaleb Norwood will present afternoon lesson
- **September 19-20** Church directory pictures
- **November 14** Coloring books or donations are due for Le Bonheur. Please see Andy/Victoria Brown or Kurt/Shelly Clayton.

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Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>
 Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Pew Packers/Afternoon Worship
1:15
 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.....662-252-9762
 Tim Dye.....662-316-2527
 Richard Jennings .662-316-1305
 Troy Robertson 662-316-3163
 Phil Young.....662-316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....662-316-6420
 Shane Crotts.....662-266-0195
 Jason Jennings.....662-801-3260
 Mark Jennings.....731-609-3309
 Kevin Simmons.. 662-512-8451
 Randy Wall.....662-316-9255

TO SERVE

Communion....Andy Clemmer
 Scripture.....Dean Dillard
 A.M. Prayer.....Tim Dye
 Closing.....Ricky Adams
 P.M. Prayer...Richard Jennings
 Closing.....Clay Jennings
 Lock.....Dan Cobb
 Usher.....Randy Wall
 Security.....Dane Coggin
 Wed Open 25th....Alvin Parks
 Wed Close 25th.Matt Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....96
 Sunday A.M.....139
 Sunday P.M.....84
 Wednesday.....82
 Contribution.....\$5,150.00
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

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Volume 33

AREA EVENTS

- **August 20-22** The Amory Church of Christ is hosting a free exhibit, *Bible Lands Museum*. There is a flyer on the table in the foyer or for information, please call (662) 256-5813.
- **August 24** The Fulton Bible Institute is offering *For the Glory of God: Christ and the Church in Ephesians*. Classes will meet each Tuesday for 13 weeks. Morning and evening classes are offered, 10:00a.m. and 7:00p.m. Both classes will cover the same material. There is a flyer on the table in the foyer, or for more information, please call (662) 862-4549.
- **August 28-29** The New Albany Church of Christ will host a Widowhood Workshop with Dean Miller. For more information, please call (662) 534-4649.
- **August 29-September 1** The East Main Church of Christ is hosting *A Call for New Testament Christianity* by Neal Pollard. For more information, please call (662) 842-6116.
- **September 12** Area-Wide Youth Meeting will be in Verona at 5:00p.m.
- **September 18** Ladies, save the date! The Amory Church of Christ will host a Ladies' Day with speaker, Debbie Dupuy. More information to come.

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)

NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF CHRIST
P. O. Box 148 / 511 Highway 15 South
New Albany, MS 38652