



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 9, 2018

Getting a Grip on Self

Mike King



The apostle Paul gave relentless attention to the Roman church about self-control. After reading the first chapter of Romans (vs. 21-32), one can readily see why there was such a need. He warned them not to allow sin to reign in their mortal bodies, but to present themselves to God as instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6:12-13). He additionally advised that if they lived according to the flesh they would die; but if by the Spirit they would put to death the deeds of the body, they would live (Rom. 8:13).

There are numerous scriptures calling for them to give themselves away. They were to totally submit by becoming a “living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). Paul advised Timothy that some would *“have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, from such turn away”* (2 Tim. 3:5). It is quite a high price to pay to be a child of God, but Christ paid quite a price to get us out of our dilemma initially. We must understand that though man is smitten with human weakness, we have been given the power of love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). One writer has suggested that a “Disciplined character belongs to the person who achieves balance by bringing all his faculties and power under control.”

There are three steps to achieving self-control. First, be willing to pay the high cost of discipleship. Jesus did not put Himself before His sacrifice and His obedience to God (Matt. 16:21-28). Christ pled for men to pay the price (v. 24). Secondly, one focusing on self-control should work at gaining patience. Paul had just finished his thoughts on *“being a living sacrifice”* (Rom. 12:1) when He taught them to *“Rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation”* (Rom. 12:2). Our prayer should be that we may *“walk in the light as He is in the light and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (I Jn. 1:7). This is in spite of the fact that we often fall.

Thirdly, be persistent with the two above mentioned steps. We are to grow in our ability to discern good from, evil (Heb. 5:12-14). This is done by our being worthy of, or living in harmony with, the gospel (Phil. 1:27). Paul’s prayer for the Philippian brethren was that their *“...love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment (Phil. 1:9)*. Let us look to Jesus as our example day to day. *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”* (I Pet. 2:21). We must learn to say “no” to self.

Some Responsibilities of Church Membership

I have yet to find a passage of scripture that supports the “member at large” ideology. By that I mean, a member apart from a local congregation. The Scripture teaches the value of individual Christians being recognized as part of a local, autonomous congregation of God’s people. While it’s true that all those who have obeyed Christ through penitent faith and baptism are members of the church of Christ, in a general sense, it is equally true that those same individuals should identify themselves with a local body of New Testament Christians. This past week, I went through some old files that I had received from a “retired” preacher. I ran across a piece of paper that has turned yellow and brittle due to the heavy weight of age. Based on some of the other documents that I found in the same folder, I’m guessing this piece is at least fifty years old. On this tattered, yellow piece of paper is an article that someone wrote about church membership. I would like to share it with you.

Every relationship in life involves some responsibility. Membership in the church of the Lord bestows upon us the highest and holiest privileges and blessings conceivable to men. It also involves great responsibilities and serious obligations (1 Cor. 12:12). A man takes pride in fulfilling his obligations. A Christian should be eager to fulfill all obligations that go with church membership. Let us study some of them, at the same time examining ourselves to see if we are fulfilling them so as to be approved of the Lord.

Local membership: The local congregation is the only unit of organization we can read of in the New Testament for carrying on the Lord’s work that is assigned to the church. For a Christian to be in full fellowship with the church, he must be associated with, and be a part of, and be amenable to a local congregation. The New Testament does not describe the status of “A member at large.” We find Paul always associating himself with a congregation of Christians (Acts 9:26-30; 13:1-3).

Subjection to the elders: The elders are to exercise oversight over the local congregation (1 Peter 5:1-5). We (members) are to “obey them that have the rule over [us]” and “they are to watch for [our] souls” (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tm. 5:17-19). **Joint participation or fellowship in the work of the local church:** Each member is to be ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1-2). “*Every joint supplieth the needs of the church*” (Eph. 4:16). “*Every tree shall be known by its fruit*” (Luke 6:44). “*Prove your own work*” (Gal. 6:4-5). **Preserve the unity, peace and harmony of the body of Christ:** “*I beseech you that there be no divisions among you*” (1 Cor. 1:10). “*Mark them which cause division*” (Rm. 16:17-18). “*Endeavoring (make some definite effort) to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3).

The church has a mission—the salvation of souls: We must be united with Christ that we might bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4). Branches that do not bring forth fruit will be cut off and cast into the fire (John 15:2). The “Christian at large” is defeating the very purpose of the local congregation—the preaching of the Gospel to the saving of souls. He is assuming no responsibility; and, sometimes he may be shirking it. The apostle Paul said that the things written down in the past were done so that we might learn (Romans 15:4). While I understand these words to be referring to the Old Testament Scripture, I do believe they teach a valuable principle. Great Christian soldiers of the past are still teaching us by what they have written. I for one am grateful that we can still learn from these men today.

~ Neil Richey

CARE GROUPS TO MEET

- Care Group 1 will meet Sat. evening Jan. 20th, at the home of *Janet Drummond*, at 5:30. Please check with *Janet* to see what you need to bring.
- Care Group 2 will meet Sun. Jan., 21st, following morning services at the fellowship building. Soup is on the menu!
- If you are not sure what Care Group you are in please check the list posted on the bulletin board or check with *Shane Crotts*.



FILL IN THE BLANK

Seek _____ and not _____, _____ you may _____; So the _____ of _____ will be _____ you, As you have _____ evil, _____ good; _____ justice in the _____.

It _____ that the _____ God of _____ be _____ to the _____ of _____.

Amos _____: _____-15 NKJV



PRAYER LIST



Scottie Davis, father of Emily Gann is scheduled for gallbladder surgery Friday, in Tupelo.

Larry Cobb is still waiting to have eye surgery due to a scheduling conflict this past week at the VA Hospital in Memphis.

Bobby White is scheduled for another chemo treatment this week.

Rex Bell is at home recovering from gallbladder surgery. He is still not feeling his best.

* Several members and their families were out this past Sunday due to sickness.

Birth: Congratulations to Michael & Kylie Kincheloe on the birth of a son, Michael Alexander Kincheloe, born Thurs., Jan. 4th. He weighed 5lbs 10oz and was 19 inches. Proud grandmother is Nancy Petrowski and great-grandmother Deloris Crowe.

Continue to Remember:

William Bailey, Joel Baxley, Jimmy Burleson, David Crossings, Julie Katherine Davis, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Violette Glass, Phillip Haynes, Shane Hutton, Johnny Lee, J.D. Stroud, Sam Warrington, Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Maurine Drummond, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Terry Young

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Wanda DeLoach, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Wadie Lepard, Ernestine McKinney, Mary Frances Reid, Price & Claudia Senter, Ione Wall

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

Expectant Mothers:

Erica Crotts (boy) Jan.; Sallye Bowlin (boy) April

REMINDER: Due to safety reasons the building will be locked at the beginning of services. Please make every effort to be on time! You can be let in at the front entrance only, after services begin.

I've Learned...

While time may fly, we are still the navigator.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- January 11.....Alvin Parks
January 15..... Jason Jennings
January 15..... Kelsey Petrowski
January 16..... Pam Conquest
January 17..... Amy Jennings
January 18..... Jean Drummond

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- January 11..... Greg & Kim Clayton



THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your love and kindness shown to our family during the illness and passing of my grandfather. We feel so blessed to be a part of our church family and we love each and everyone of you! Paige Young & family

DIAPER SHOWER

Help us shower Erica and Martin Crotts with lots of diapers and wipes for their new little boy Jake, who is expected on the 15th. A container will be placed in the foyer Sunday, Jan. 14th. Please pray for a safe and healthy delivery of baby Jake!



YOUTH NEWS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting for January will be held Jan. 14th, at the Oak Ridge congregation. The van will leave at 5:40.
The Senior Bible Bowl will meet Sunday, Jan. 21st, at the Hillcrest congregation in Baldwyn.
This month's Youth Devo will be held January 28th, following evening services. Richard and Kathy Jennings will be hosting.



CONGREGATIONAL THEME:

Working as God's team in 2018!

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

MINISTER

Mike King 507-0625
 Home..... 534-6872
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....316-6364
 Jason Jennings.....801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Michael Crotts
 A.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton
 Closing Prayer.....Phil Young
 P.M. Prayer.....Kevin Simmons
 ClosingDavid Clayton
 Wed. 1/17.....Jim Gann
 Wed.1/17.....Matt Jennings
 Lock 1/14.....Jason Jennings
 Usher 1/14.....Jason Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....86
 Sunday A.M.....112
 Sunday P.M.....75
 Wednesday.....81
 Contribution.....\$6,781.00
 Budget.....\$4,385.16



PANTRY ITEMS

Rice

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Volume 2

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

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

1. **Keep Your Life Simple.** Keep yourself responsive to simple things. Don't get in the habit of requiring the unusual for your pleasure (I Tim. 6:8).
2. **Avoid Watching For A Knock In Your Motor.** The world's unhappiest people are always anticipating the worst (2 Tim. 1:7).
3. **Learn to Like Work.** For some people work is a four lettered word. I know people who think that "Manuel Labor" is the president of Mexico. The principle of work is biblical (Eph. 4:28; I Thess. 4:11).
4. **Learn to Be Satisfied.** There are many unhappy people who are never satisfied with anything in life. Their lives, their jobs, their marriages, their homes, their locations. We must be satisfied with what we have and not dissatisfied with what we do not have. (Phil. 4:11-13).
5. **Meet Adversity By Turning Defeat Into Victory.** We must turn our burdens into bridges and our scars into stars. (Rom. 5:3,4)
6. **Face Your Problems With Decision.** You cannot decide what problems will come your way, but you can decide how you will respond to your problems.
7. **Always Be Planning Something.** We are all in one of three positions. 1) We are standing still and spinning our wheels. 2) We are sliding backwards. 3) We are moving forward with some goals. It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail. A person without goals is a wandering generality, but a person with goals is a meaningful specific.
 ~ Claude, Bridgeport Proclaimer 7/ 05