

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

July 6, 2011

An Acceptable Ransom

Mike King



An article was written by *Alan Smith* of the Helen Street Church of Christ in Fayetteville, NC. The title of his article was “The Highest Ransom Ever Paid.” In it, he related an interesting story.

“A few years ago there was a true story about a man in New York City who was kidnapped. His kidnappers called his wife and asked for \$100,000 ransom. She talked them down to \$30,000.

The story had a happy ending: the man returned home unharmed, the money was recovered, and the kidnappers were caught and sent to jail. But don’t you wonder what happened when the man got home and found that his wife got him back for a discount?

Calvin Trillian was the writer of this story. He imagined what the negotiations must have been like: ‘\$100,000 for that old guy? You have got to be crazy! Just look at him! Look at that gut! You want a \$100,000 for that? You’ve got to be kidding. Give me a break here. \$30,000 is my top offer.’

I can sympathize with the kidnapper man because I wonder how much the people of my life think that I’m worth. But I am flattered beyond description to realize that I was worth enough to God that He was willing to pay the ultimate price for my ransom, my redemption.”

Peter put it into perspective by saying, “*Knowing that you were not redeemed (ransomed) with corruptible things like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*”(I Pet. 1:18-19).

The truth of the matter is that the value of something is determined by the amount that someone is willing to pay for it. Whether a work of art or a collectible automobile, some would pay much, others would pay little, depending upon the assessed value placed on it by the purchaser.

God did not quibble about the price that had to be paid to redeem us from Satan’s grasp, but paid the full ransom amount. This amounted to more than the price that had ever been paid for an individual. We should be flattered and complimented that God would so distinguish us by making us His #1 priority. It only makes sense that we should respond reciprocally by giving Him glory and honor by the life we live for Him.

Hold that Cow's Tail!

My mother grew up as the youngest on a small farm in middle Tennessee. They had chickens and cows, as well as other barnyard critters. When she was four or five years old, my grandmother would take her along to do the morning chores. There was always something for a little girl to do. She gathered eggs in places only a little person could reach. And while Granny was milking the cow, Granny told her, "Hold that cow's tail!" My mother would gently hold the cow's tail so it didn't get swished into Granny's face and interrupt her pace in that important work.

It all sounds humorous now, but there were some valuable lessons to be learned. First, everyone, big or small, has a job to do. Second, every job small or big is important. Third, everyone is valued and needed. These concepts are especially true in the church of the Lord.

The church at Corinth did not understand these basic principles. Some of the Corinthian brethren thought they must have visible, "showy" positions of service. Others functioned in somewhat menial positions and thought their work was not as valuable.

The apostle Paul corrected these mistaken views when he said, "*For the body does not consist of one member but many. If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of smell?*" (1 Cor. 12:14-17).

The person who cleans the building or prepares the Lord's Supper is just as needful as the person who publicly preaches, teaches, or leads prayers. Paul made it abundantly clear that everyone, big or small, has a job to do in the well-functioning church, the body of Christ. Every job, small or big, is equally important. Every member is valued and needed. Our aim, then, is to find a role, a work, a service that honors our Lord, and seek out those who are young or young in the faith and urge them to "Hold that cow's tail!"

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)

T. Hampton ~ via ~ Montrose Church of Christ bulletin

YOUTH NEWS

During this past Marvelous Monday (which was a slip' n' slide), I began to think about water and its importance in our lives. About 60% of the human body is made up of water, and without consuming it we would not be able to function. Drinking water provides us with the ability to operate daily activities and even cures most of our common ailments.

Jesus said in John 4:13-14 that, "*Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.*" We all get thirsty each day as a sign that we need more water because its benefits to us are temporary. However, if we have embraced the gospel message and are baptized into Christ, the benefits of His "spirit" and "grace" are both bountiful and never-ending.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday July 10 is the Area Wide Youth Meeting at the Zion Rest Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:20. Car driver will be Christy Wall.
- Marvelous Monday will meet July 11, at 10:00am at the church building. We will be visiting the shut-ins.
- Remember to sign up for the Atlanta Trip, July 28-30.

Andy

PRAYER LIST

Lyndie Holloway, 6 month old great-granddaughter of *J. L. Eaton* has had tests run on her heart.

Billy Joe Griggs, brother of *Ronnie*, has cancer and having a difficult time.



Continual Prayer

Eleta Grimmitt, Travis Jamieson, Al Pless, Billy Joe Bray, Aliene Cain, Donna Haynes, Willie Jackson, David Harendt, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Lessie Bryant, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden & Pauline Smith

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole, Micah Russell

BIBLE SCRAMBLE

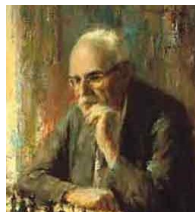
Unscramble the letters in each word below to reveal the passage of scripture.

TTHA EHT TSNLIGEE USOLHD EB WOLLFE
SRIHE NDA FO EHT SMEA YODB, NDA
TSRRPKEAA FO SIH SRPOMIE NI TSRIHC YB
EHT SPOLGE:

Solution found in Eph. 3:6

“I’VE LEARNED”

...That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you’re climbing it.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 09.....Cody Clemmer
July 10.....Brenda Crow
July 14.....Steve Hill

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 07.....Brian & Shelby Carpenter

AREA EVENTS

- The Tiplersville Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting July 10-14, at 7:30 each evening. Guest speaker: *Mark Blackwelder*
- Potts Camp Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting, July 10-13. They will have a different speaker each night. Sunday, *Ray Kennedy* will be the guest speaker. Times Sun are: Bible Class at 10:00AM, Worship at 11:00AM, lunch at noon, singing from 1:00-2:00 and evening service at 2:00PM. Monday night at 7:00 the New Albany Church of Christ will conduct the service with *Mike King* speaking. Tuesday night at 7:00, the Beech Hill Church of Christ will conduct the services with *James Horton* speaking and then Wednesday night at 7:00 the Ashland Church of Christ will conduct the services with *Randy Collum* speaking.
- Chapman Church of Christ VBS is July 17-20.
- Fulton Church of Christ VBS is July 17-20.
- The Pine Bluff Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting July 17-20. Times are: Sun Bible Study at 10:00am, Worship at 11:00am and 6:00pm; Mon-Wed at 7pm. The guest speaker will be *Bruce Mclarty*.
- Evangelism Training Workshop to be held July 12-14 at the 21st Century Global Mission in Fulton. Check the bulletin board for details.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	105
Sunday A M	151
Sunday P.M	107
Wednesday	112
Contribution	\$3,420.30
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Dean Dillard
A.M. Prayer	Paul Ormon
Closing Prayer.....	J.L. Eaton
P.M. Prayer.....	Roger Clayton
Closing	Clay Ormon
Wed 7/13.	Jason Jennings
Wed. 7/13	Phil Young
Usher & Lock.....	Lonnie Weaver
Greeter.....	A & S Clemmer



PANTRY ITEM:
Canned vegetables

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

ELDERS

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts	316-2422
Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall	316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

MINISTER

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

IT IS HARD



... To convince your children that the church is the most important thing in the world when you are negligent about attending its services and supporting its work.

... To convince your children that the church is the greatest institution in the world when you permit them to miss services to go elsewhere.

... To convince your children that the church is to be held higher than anything when you insist that they do their homework for public school but permit them to neglect their Bible study.

... To convince your children that the church is the world's most important institution when you give little to help finance its work and encourage them to do likewise.

... To convince your children that they should respect the church when you continually criticize the leadership, belittle the teacher's work and appear a habitual faultfinder.

Author Unknown

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 5:5-7

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Volume 27

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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