

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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August 16, 2011

CARELESSNESS THWARTS SPIRITUALITY

Mike King



An expression we sometimes hear and use is, “I could care less about the matter.” This could easily depict the disposition of brethren concerning the work and worship of the Lord. It would appear as if genuine Christianity demands that “faith works by love” (Gal. 5:6) if God is to be honored and obeyed. What a mighty body the Lord’s church is when as a conglomerate we dedicate, commit and engage ourselves in the Master’s service. I recently read an interesting thought that sheds light on our topic of discussion: “**We** can, if **I** will!” The “we” is very prominent when accepting credit or compliment, but when assignments are being given, “I” is nowhere to be found.

Carelessness is too often exercised in use of spoken words that wreak havoc with marriages, countries, churches and relationships in general for generations. James wrote, “*If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body...And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity*” so it is “among members” being “full of deadly poison” (Jas. 3:2, 6, 8). The tongue allows us to sow discord among brethren (Prov. 6:16-19) and cause divisions in the kingdom of God. An ancient proverb put it into perspective with the thought: “words in swift profusion hurled may upset the destiny of the world!” Carelessness breaks hearts and divides the bond that holds people together. Words when selected that are gracious, joyous, timely and loving, have a tendency to heal, bless and edify. Words are indications of what is in the heart for “*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (Mt. 12:34). Careless actions from careless people usually signal shallow plans and motivations. Careless actions often are a “knee jerk” reaction to jealousy, envy, greed and an ego-centered heart. The “one talent man,” the “elder brother” and Judas Iscariot (Mt. 25; Lk 15; Mk. 14:21) are examples of those who have responded to immediate situations in a careless way. Their efforts are certainly counter-productive. Spiritual carelessness can send countless numbers to perdition. We like Paul must fight the good fight, finish our course and keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7). Our efforts are not rendered in vain.

WHEN THE SKUNK GOT UNDER THE CHURCH

A sister in one congregation related an amazing story to my wife. It seems that a skunk (or two?) got into the crawl space under the church building. An exterminator was called, and he promptly killed the skunk. The problem was, he left it there. When everyone showed up for mid-week services the smell was so overpowering that everyone got nauseated. The smell remained on their clothing even after they returned home. It sounds humorous, but it must have been a real ordeal!



I wonder how many skunks get under churches. They perch under them and really make themselves known. They leave such an effect that it is often carried away from the church building upon the hearts, thoughts and feelings of church members.

Pride is a skunk that gets under churches. Is anything more offensive than self-centered egotism? It keeps people from admitting their mistakes. It causes prejudice and haughtiness. God hates pride (Pro. 8:13). Pride produces dishonor (Prov. 11:2), strife (Prov. 13:10) and destruction (Prov. 16:18). Pride is a skunk!

Gossip is a skunk that gets under churches. It is halitosis of the heart. Every word that comes off the tongue of a gossip is foul! God hates it, and it ruins good churches (Prov. 11:13). I imagine it runs people off, too!

Pettiness is a skunk that gets under churches. Bickering and arguing over the smallest matters is an embarrassment to faithful Christians, a black eye for the church's reputation and a rank reminder that a spiritual skunk is perched beneath the surface. Biting and devouring is a dangerous business (Gal. 5:15).

Lukewarmness is a skunk that gets under churches. The wishy-washy, uncommitted spirit of the Laodiceans nauseated God (Rev. 3:16). When a church just comes to keep house and is not involved, what a stench the church becomes to the community. A ho-hum attitude is a skunk that gets under churches.

We need to exterminate the skunks by removing them from the church and ridding ourselves of all attitudes and actions inconsistent with the will of Christ. We are to draw all men to Christ (cf. Jn 12:32; Dan. 12:2) rather than repel lost sinners or other brethren (cf. Acts 13:8). What kind of impression are you leaving on others? Babylon of old was in trouble; consequently, God said, its "*stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up*" (Joel 2:20). May we learn from them, deciding instead to send up to heaven and out toward others, the savor of His knowledge in every place (2 Cor. 2:14).

Neal Pollard ~via The Chapman Challenger~

YOUTH NEWS

- Thanks to *Dan Cobb* for carrying our young people to the Area Wide Youth Meeting in Verona Sunday night.
- Junior and Senior Bible Bowls will begin in September. The first Bible Bowl for the seniors will be September 18th at the Nettleton Church of Christ. The Junior group will have their first competition on September 24th at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ.
- This month's Youth Devo will be Sunday night August 28th following services. *Shane* and *Barbara Crotts* and *Alvin* and *Kaye Parks* will be hosting.
- Wednesday night August 31st will be singing night. All young men are encouraged to lead a song.

FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

I pray that I may live to fish
Until my dying day.
And when it comes to my last cast,
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's great landing net
And peacefully asleep
That in His mercy
I be judged
BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP!



PRAYER LIST

Randy Wall, had shoulder surgery Monday to repair his rotator cuff. It will take several weeks to recover.

Jerry Coates, minister for the Potts Camp Church of Christ remains in room 294 of the Tupelo hospital following heart surgery. He is having a difficult time.

Laura Mae Harris remains in room 204 of the local hospital. She hopes to be released soon.

Drew Ferguson, friend of the *Weaver family*, is dealing with serious health problems.

Pauline Smith, has been taken back to Graceland Nursing Home where she is improving.

Bobby White, continues to improve after his fall.

Claudia Senter was to return to her doctor this week.

Tommy Howell, father of *Christy Wall* is doing well following his surgery last week

Continual Prayer

Pat Reed, Daphne Fitzpatrick, Tony Cross, Billy Joe Bray, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Travis Jamieson, Aliene Cain, Donna Haynes, Willie Jackson, 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:

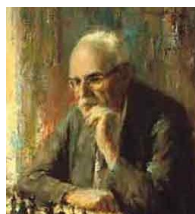
Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden & Pauline Smith

Military List:

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

“I’VE LEARNED”

...That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- August 19.....Kim Clayton
- August 20.....Phillip Young
- August 21.....Mary Frances Reid
- August 24.....Pauline Smith
- August 26.....Gary Turner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- August 21.....Roger & Kathy Clayton
- August 21.....Jerry & Lucille Gibson

CELEBRATION

Jodie Clayton, Andrea Hill and Sallye Bowlin invite you to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of their parents, *Roger and Kathy Clayton*. A reception will be held on Sunday, August 21st from 2:00-4:00 at the New Albany Church of Christ fellowship building. No gifts, please.

BABY SHOWER



There will be a baby shower for *Jessica Garrett* Sunday, August 28th at 2:00pm in the annex building. *Jessica and Austin* are expecting a girl in mid September.

AREA EVENTS

Faith Basics Youth Rally to be held at the **Gloster Street Church of Christ** Aug. 20 9:00am-2:00 pm.

Fulton Bible Institute will begin a study Aug. 23 on *The Life of Christ*. Check the bulletin board for details.

Sherman Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting Aug. 21-24 with guest speaker *Jay Lockhart*, Mon.-Wed at 7:00pm

Marlow Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting Aug. 28-31 with guest speaker *Tom Childers*, Mon.-Wed at 7:30pm

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	na
Sunday A M	131
Sunday P.M	77
Wednesday	124
Contribution	\$2,850.33
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Martin Crotts
A.M. Prayer.	Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer.....	J.L. Eaton
P.M. Prayer.....	Terry Young
Closing	Bill Botts
Wed 8/24.	Phillip Young
Wed. 8/24	Bobby Marques
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	H & D Crowe



PANTRY ITEM

JUICE

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

THE SILENT SERMON

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then it's fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave; he slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek. "Thank you so much for your fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matt. 5:16 ~ copied ~



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