

The Messenger

The Atlanta Church of Christ

in Guinnett

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

BY JOHN BECKER

Elders

Steve Galbreath
Alan Rouse

Evangelist

Richard Alawaye

Teacher

Gary Roberson

Women's Ministry & Welfare

Sarah Alawaye
Roxanne Galbreath
Sherry Rouse

Teens

John and Marisabel
Becker

Deacons

Peter Berry
Steve Collier
Danny Doble
Danny Emmett
Audie Flowers
Bill Francis
Patrick Freeman
Glenn Hayes
Kendall Knight
Karl Lynn
Russ McGarr
Alvin Modest
Jeff Mueller
Todd Reynolds
Dan Stehr
Ken Watson

I love Japanese food. It is one of my favorite types of food in the entire world. The way they cook hibachi-style right in front of you on that sizzling grill is always a treat for my family and me. With a renewed attitude on finances, we have budgeted a certain amount of money every month for eating out and I remembered that we still had some left for this month. I also noticed that our favorite Japanese steakhouse was having an anniversary special. I don't know about you, but for me, once I get my mind, and more importantly, my taste buds ready for something specific, nothing else will do. So with coupon in hand, we trekked out in the rain to go for our special meal. Once we arrived, to our horror we noticed there was a sign on the door: "Closed Due to Weather." WHAT! We made the ten-minute drive to the restaurant, and we were all really looking forward to this meal, and they were closed. I must say, years ago, no matter what the weather was I would have looked for another Japanese restaurant and would not have been satisfied until we found what we wanted. It also would have probably bummed me out a bit and I might have gotten a bad attitude, to the detriment of my family. It is incredible how sometimes we take the

smallest of bad fortune and allow it to ruin our attitudes and, if that happens to us frequently, it can ruin our very lives.

I am not sure if anyone reading these words can relate, but it is challenging to maintain a good attitude when things do not go our way. It can be as simple as a missed Japanese dinner, or something more life threatening like a chronic illness. God teaches us in the Bible that no matter what the situation is, we are to maintain a good attitude. We can absolutely do this if we train ourselves to focus on the way God looks at the situations that are going on in our lives.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

The way we respond to problems is a way that we can see where we are spiritually. If we lose our minds because someone left the cap off of the milk, it is

(Continued on next page.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. 10/18: Guest speaker Mike Taliferro
San Antonio, TX Church (Teachers/parents note: children will be in class for the entire service.)
Fri. 10/30 7:30: Singles Devotional
Winfield Hall - Satellite Blvd & Steve Reynolds. Free

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What is Generosity?..... 3
Run to Win 4
Deacon's Directory & Family Groups ... 4

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

BY JOHN BECKER

(Continued)

time to reassess our peace in the Lord. In Ephesians 4:22-24, Paul teaches us to put off our old selves. If we were people that were high strung and anxious in our lives before Christ, we are commanded to work on that aspect of our character for the glory of God. It is in the mind where we wage the battle for our attitudes. Paul calls us to be made new in the attitudes of our minds. You might say it is easier said than done. I agree with you, yet one thing I know: If God calls for us to change, he will give us the power to do so.

I am a product of such changed in thinking, but it did not happen overnight, and I have not yet arrived. As I write these words, my children are acting like children that have been locked up in the house for two days now. From my upbringing, I have to admit that I am pretty nervous when it comes to normal children noises. My wife is great about the kids playing and knows it is normal. She also realizes when it gets overboard and she deals with it accordingly. I am more inclined to stop it before it begins. As I am writing this article, they have given me another opportunity to work on this character in my life. Through the “being made new in the attitude of my mind” and “putting on a new self”, I calmly called my children into the office and told them they were getting too loud, and I asked them to lower their voices and to play nice. In my frustration in the past, I would have yelled to get my point across. That is not only ineffective, it is unrighteous. When something inconvenient happens in our lives, we cannot allow it to throw our attitudes into a spiral. We must look at it as an opportunity to work on that character trait. Thinking in that way is not natural, at least not for me, but it can become second nature if we allow ourselves to be trained by the scriptures and the Holy Spirit. With God, all things are possible...even maintaining a righteous attitude when things do not go our way.

Philippians 2:4-11 (NIV)

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Humility teaches us that we are to have the same attitude of Jesus. What was his attitude? His attitude was that of a humble servant. He never looked for honor or praise from others. Jesus knew he was sent here to earth to serve man, so he became obedient to death on a cross. He was willing to die a criminal's death. Jesus had every right in the way we justify ourselves to have a horrible attitude. He could have said “why me” because he was innocent. I am sure Satan tempted him to think those types of thoughts, but Jesus maintained an amazing attitude because he knew his role and he absolutely loves us. Jesus is Lord, and God exalted him to the highest place. God wants to exalt us all as well. He wants to lift us up higher than we have ever been before. Just that thought brings a smile to my face. I hope that thought will warm your hearts. To know that God is so interested in our success is truly amazing and it helps me to feel loved by God. One thing we must realize as well is that we will face trials, just like Jesus. Our task is to maintain a great attitude through it all. Again, it is not easy, but through prayer and training, we will one day see the face of God and hear him commend us as faithful servants. Amen for that day! See you there...

WHAT IS GENEROSITY?

BY DANNY EMMITT

Quick – think of someone that is generous....

Now, did you think of someone who was generous with their money? When we think of someone being generous we often think that you can only be generous with money. Too often, when we hear the word generous we go to our check book and look at the balance; how much we gave, how much we have left. We tend to place a dollar amount on generosity without considering the heart behind the gift.

I think the Bible teaches us that God is more concerned about the size of our sacrifice than the size of our gift. Are you a generous person? How do you bring forth your spirit of generosity? How are you doing in this area? In what ways can we become more generous?

Generosity gives the first and best to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing.”

Going to Goodwill and donating items my children have outgrown or out-of-date items we have replaced – Is this generous or not? I get a tax write-off, have a less cluttered garage and get to buy new stuff now that the old stuff is gone. How about the next time you take a trip to Goodwill, also go and buy a few new stuffed bears and take them to the local fire or police department to let them hand out to kids. This will be giving your firstfruits and not only your leftovers.

Generosity is regular.

1 Corinthians 16:2 “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” Guess what? We will have a special contribution next year, we will take up a tithe on Sunday, we will take up a benevolence contribution on midweek, we will need goods to stock the food pantry; there will be many needs that have to be met in the church. There will be families who need meals prepared, houses cleaned or kids watched. Do you regularly give in these areas? Generosity is a pattern of intentional, systematic giving of your very best.

Generosity is proportional and sacrificial.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 “And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.”

Generosity demands that we think in terms of our total gifts that God has given us. Think in terms of percentages instead of amounts. Our service should also be proportional; you have talents God has given you, so use them for God’s service. If you make a lot of money, give a lot of money. If you have a lot of time, give a lot of time. The saints in Corinth had pure joy in giving. But what about us that don’t have a lot of money or time? Give proportionally and get advice on how you too can have the pure joy the Corinth saints had.

Generosity is thoughtful, voluntary, and worshipful.

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 “So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Generosity is not only sacrificial, but it also shows a life of thoughtfulness, worship and respect. We can all plan better how to give to God’s church and what we can give ahead of time. How often do you sit down with your wife or disciplining partner and discuss the coming weeks? Do you plan for upcoming events so that you will not need to make plans the night before? Do you pray about your schedule and your plans? Plan out of a heart that desires to give, and as an act of worship. Your generosity can be an expression of your love for God and others.

RUN TO WIN

BY KAT WATSON

As Ken and I are now empty nesters approaching 50, there are several ways we are preparing to have a good quality of life in our later years: We are saving more for retirement. We pay more attention to our health. We eat less meat and carbs, and have upped the veggie intake. I slather my skin with ointments guaranteed to hold the wrinkles at bay. I tweeze out the grey hairs. My teeth need more work. My mammos need to be grammed.

But it occurred to me lately that I have been focusing on preparing to make it for the physical long run, but I've just been surviving day to day spiritually. Have I been investing in my spiritual future? In fact, how do I invest in my spiritual future?

Paul said, "Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes... goes into strict training.... Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly. ... No, I beat my body and make it my slave...." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I've come up with two ways we need to invest in our spiritual future. First, we need to **train/maintain**. Just as we need to make a habit of saving money and keeping ourselves in shape, we need to be vigilant, stringent, and dare I say religious, about maintaining good spiritual habits that will keep us in good spiritual shape.

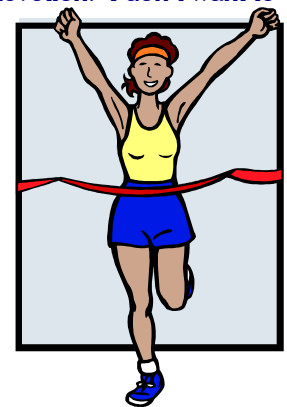
How do we do this? Every day we make sure that we have a dedicated time to pray and connect with God. We find at least one Bible verse that we can use to fight off temptation and help us grow. We beg God to help us share our faith wherever we go and really care about

people when we meet them. We commit ourselves to our relationships. We pray for one another, and make time to call one another and hang out together regularly.

The second way we invest is to make it a priority to wash the stains down the drain. We become so busy and distracted. How do we deal with our hearts? They're like our houses – they need constant cleaning and we don't know where to begin. But the attitudes we're allowing to continue in our hearts are slowly poisoning us – bitterness, discouragement, fear, anxiety, criticalness, unbelief and ingratitude. We've got to start addressing these things as aggressively as we attack the mildew in the tub.

In conclusion, as Sarah Alawaye once taught, I want to age gracefully. We're like the soup pot that bubbles on the back of the stove. What you put in is what you'll get out. I want to put good things into my pot over the years, so I am continuously cured by love, thankfulness, faith, praise, trust and wholehearted devotion. I don't want to be soaked in the herbs of bitterness or the corrosion of regret, frustration, worry, and fear.

My prayer for all of us is that, at the end, we will have invested our lives, without compromise, so we may say, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



Deacon's Directory

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Karl Lynn | New Members | 770-979-4292 |
| Ken Watson | Benevolence | 678-376-2677 |
| Peter Berry | Benevolence | 678-376-1878 |
| Danny Doble | Spanish Translation | 770-931-0601 |
| Audie Flowers | Visitation | 770-277-5749 |
| Patrick Freeman | Kingdom Kids | 770-921-1811 |
| Glenn Hayes | Kingdom Kids | 770-985-6921 |
| Dan Stehr | Visitation | 770-925-2943 |
| Bill Francis | Visitation | 770-806-8645 |
| Todd Reynolds | High School | 770-682-0027 |
| Russ McGarr | Middle School | 770-381-5045 |
| Alvin Modest | Worship | 678-344-0061 |
| Steve Collier | Teens-Parents | 770-717-5784 |
| Danny Emmett | Hope, Events | 770-985-4542 |
| Jeff Mueller | Benevolence | 770-492-0544 |
| Kendall Knight | Music Service | 770-972-6887 |

Contribution

8/30 - \$9,292.20

9/6 - \$7645.25

9/13 - \$8451.25

9/20 - \$7855.75

9/27 - \$7629.25

Family Group Leaders

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Peter & Nancy Berry | Suwanee | 678-376-1878 |
| Steve & Barbara Collier | Lilburn | 770-717-5784 |
| Jim & Chandra Dew | Lilburn | 770-330-3479 |
| Danny & Cynthia Doble | Lilburn | 770-931-0601 |
| Audie & Jackie Flowers | Snellville | 770-277-5749 |
| James & Quiana Martinez | L'ville | 678-985-5511 |
| Alvin & Beatrice Modest | Snellville | 678-344-0061 |
| Jeff & Jessica Mueller | Tucker | 770-492-0544 |
| Ricky & Bridgett Roberson | Snellville | 770-879-0868 |
| Joseph & Lisa Washington | L'ville | 678-407-0306 |
| Ken & Kat Watson | Suwanee | 678-376-2677 |