

—[*Announcements*]—

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

—[*James 5:13–16*]—

Jo Byrnes * Betty Cannon * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore
Faye Kilpatrick * Carl Rutter * Randy McElroy

An Upcoming Gospel Meeting

As I have mentioned before, the Lord willing I am going to Cleveland, Ohio, next week to preach a series of lessons in a week long gospel meeting for the Lorain Avenue congregation. This is the first time I have been there since my maternal grandparents passed away. In my place in the pulpit here, **brother Mike Cooner** from Trenton is coming to preach in the morning of June 7th. That evening, **brother Al Sandlin** from the South Pine Avenue congregation in Ocala (whom we are financially supporting) will be here. I appreciate their help.

☞ Chiefland Church of Christ ☞

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 ♦ Chiefland FL 32644 ♦ (352) 493–1242

THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

—[*Colossians 3:1–2*]—

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Southernisms ***By Dene Ward***

I understand that the term “Southernism” refers to a trait of language or behavior that is characteristic of the South or Southerners. I have a cookbook, *Cooking Across the South* compiled by Lillian Marshall, which extrapolates that definition to include certain Southern recipes, particularly older recipes. She includes in that list things like hominy, frocking, poke sallet, and tomato gravy. If you are from north of the Mason-Dixon Line, I am sure you are scratching your head at some of those things, wondering just what in the world they are besides strange.

In the same vein, I wondered if we could stretch that idea to something we might call “Christianisms,” things a Christian

would do that might seem peculiar to someone who isn't one. Like never using what the world now calls "colorful language;" like remaining calm and civil when someone mistreats you, doing, in fact, something nice for them; like not cheating on your taxes; like giving back the change that a cashier overpaid you; like paying attention to the speed limit and other laws of the land even if there is not a trooper behind you; like cooking or cleaning house for an invalid; like making time for the worship on Sunday morning and arriving at the ball game late even if those tickets did cost a small fortune; like being careful of the clothing you choose to wear; like choosing not to see certain movies or watch certain television shows; like thinking that spending time with other Christians is far more enjoyable than things like "clubbing;" — these are my idea of Christianisms. I am sure you could add more to the list.

In the cookbook, I must admit, are many things I have never heard of, despite being a born and bred Southerner — frocking, for one. You see I came along at a time when the South was starting to change, especially my part of it. Disney changed everything. Orlando used to be a one-horse town instead of the metropolis it has become. I actually learned how to drive in Tampa on I-75. Can you imagine letting a first-timer do that today? My part of the South has become less "southern" as the years have passed. So, while I had roots in the traditions of the Deep South, I have lost familiarity with many of them.

Wouldn't it be a shame if we got to that point with "Christianisms?" When you read that list I made, did you stop somewhere along the line and say, "Huh? Why would anyone do that?"

Have we allowed the "worldisms" to take the place of concepts and behaviors that ought to be second nature to us? Can we even compose a list of things that make us different or have we become assimilated into the culture surrounding us?

Try making a list of the "Christianisms" in your life today. Make sure you can come up with some, and if not, maybe it's time to make a few changes.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life (Philippians 2:14–16).

The Devil's Advocates

One of the most foolish things a warrior can do is go to battle without first knowing his enemy. Satan has planted many of his best agents among us. Let's expose a few of them —

There's the **Chronic Complainer**. He is silent only when the church is idle.

His able lieutenant is **Ever Offended**. Disagree with him and he'll take his toys and go home.

Their capable assistant is **Avid Advisor**. No matter how hard you try or how well you do, he will always tell you how you could have done it better.

Then there is **Church Jumper**. He is always sure that somewhere is a perfect church where everyone and everything is in complete harmony. If he finds a church like that, let's hope he doesn't join it because he might spoil it!