



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
Web site: www.dovercoc.org

Volume 21

Number 15

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

April 12, 2009

Don't Miss This Choice

By Bill Denton

“But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”
(Acts 26:16-18, NASB95)

How does one measure the power of a choice? Every day, we are faced with multitudes of choices. Many are innocent, and it may not matter all that much what is chosen. Scrambled eggs for breakfast, or that whole-grain muffin? Wear your navy blue or your flashy red? Things that are simply choices between preferences, and the results are not devastating either way.

Other choices matter far more. Will we be honest or lie? Will we be true or false? Will we take advantage of others or make a sacrifice ourselves? Will we be moral or immoral? Will we hurt somebody or heal somebody? The surprising thing is how often our choices involve these deeply spiritual matters, and how very much they matter to the direction, content, or product of our lives.

The biggest problem may be that few of us stop to think about what kind of choice we are making before it's made. Many find ourselves in trouble because we choose before we realize the nature of the choice. We used wrong measurements or reasoning, we chose badly, and the results smacked us in the face. That's when we paid attention.

In the dominion of Satan, the old devil throws a lot of smokescreens in our way. Watch him with Eve in the garden. His questions are skillfully crafted to get Eve tangled in a web of faulty thinking. “You mean God said you shouldn't eat from any of the trees in the garden?” That's not what God said. God prohibited only one tree and gave all the others for food. It looks like an innocent question, but it's the opening gambit of a deadly game. Satan wanted Eve to put her guard down, get tied up in a go-no-where discussion about what God did or did not say, and insinuate that God had ulterior motives for prohibiting the fruit from the one tree. Once that was done, the focus was off the nature of choice. The fruit looked good, it undoubtedly tasted good, and besides it was going to make her wise. Have a bite! Eve took the fruit without any thought about the nature of her choice.

We do the same. Satan's temptations are remarkably similar today. It's why other scripture speaks about the lust of eye, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life. Smokescreens! They are designed to confuse the nature of our choices.

They are powerful. Never doubt the effectiveness of Satan's methods, for he has afflicted every person since Adam with the same means of temptation. Reality is that Satan is better at tempting people than people are at resisting the temptations. That's why the apostle Paul concludes, “*All have sinned.*” Thankfully, Jesus beat Satan's temptation game. He resisted temptation, avoided sin and lived a perfect life. That made Jesus the only viable candidate to serve as a sacrifice for sin. It also made Jesus our answer. We'll never undo the wrong choices we've made, and the sin that followed. But there is forgiveness. Don't miss this choice. Choose Jesus. That choice unravels the Devil and frees us from our sins.

Good news, huh?

Merrell Shoptaw used this for a Wednesday Devotional, Dover Church of Christ, Dover, Arkansas, March 18, 2009.

Happy moments, praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God

Quiet moments, worship God.

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

“Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord will plead their case and take the life of those who rob them.” (Proverbs 22:22-23) In verse 16 it says, *“He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.”* Verse 2 says that the rich and poor have something in common; the Lord is maker of all.

We are taught at an early age to share with others. John the Baptist told those who were being baptized, when they asked what they should do, to share with others. *“The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”* (Luke 3:11)

Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* You experience this feeling when you give to someone in need. *“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.”* (Proverbs 22:9) We are to share and do good for others, as we have the opportunity, to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)

We can't say that we just get by, that we really don't have enough to share. Not at this time, and not in this land. Good, God-fearing people give even when they have little. We reap what we sow. We sow generously, we reap generously.

Paul said to the Ephesians, *“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”*

(4:28) Paul was saying that it is not enough to cease from sin, but one has to do good for others. The one who stole must stop and now help those in need. Share with *others*, help the poor. *“The rich and poor have something in common; the Lord is the Maker of them all.”* And God has compassion for the poor.

Remember Our Sick

Hoyt Ensey – in hospital, congestive heart failure.

Clara Hefley – diagnosed with cancer.

Carl Keathley – Rose Lee's brother, in his eighties, in ICU, double pneumonia.

Janette Litch – started chemo treatments.

Sherry Strick – Brain tumors, moved to Baptist Hosp., LR.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin

Evelyn Driver

Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Tommy Causey, Troy & Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Tim Green, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, Kristen Nordin, Eugene Qualls, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: D. J. Bandy, Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan and Billy Joe Ralston.

Sympathy and Prayers:

For the family and friends of **Marge Ratchford** who passed away recently, sister of Larry Mahan.

For family and friends of **Mary Ann Churchill** who passed away Monday, March 30, 2009. Memorial services were Saturday, April 4, 2009.

She will be missed by the church family here at Dover.

Christ's Birth and Death

A study of the birth and death of Jesus reveals some interesting parallels.

Consider the following:

At both, He was rejected of men. (Luke 2:7; Mark 15:15)

At both, He was cast “outside.” (Luke 1:7; Hebrews 13:12)

At both, Mary was there. (Luke 2:7; John 19-26)

At both, myrrh was present for use upon Him. (Matthew 2:11; John 19-39)

At both, there was darkness. (Matthew 2:20, 14; 27:45)

At both, His body was wrapped in cloth. (Luke 2:7-8; Mark 15:46)

At both, a Herod becomes curiously involved. (Matthew 2:7-8; Luke 23:7-12)

At both, wise men recognized His deity. (Matthew 1:1-2; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:41)

At both, Jew and Gentile were there.

At both, there was worship – the first genuine, the second mocking. (Matthew 2:11; Luke 2:13-14; Mark 15:19)

At both, He was hailed as King – one in earnest, the other in jest. (Matthew 2:2; Mark 15:26,32)

At both, there was an honorable man named Joseph. (Matthew 1:19; Luke 2:16; Mark 15:43)

At both, the chief priests and scribes were involved. (Matthew 2:4-6; 27:41; Luke 23:10)

And both have changed the world and altered the impact of eternity.

*Neal Pollard, Denver,
Colorado*

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

DOVER LADIES' DAY!

April 25, 2009
Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas
Continental Breakfast and
Registration 9:00 AM
Program 9:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Theme: "Today's
Moments become . . .
Tomorrows Treasured
Memories . . ."

No Dover Ladies Night
For the month of April

Dover Men's Devo

Thursday, April 8th, 7PM
Host: Alan Boatright

Mark Your Calendars

11th Annual
Evangelistically
Speaking Lectureship
April 17th thru 19th
Mars Hill Church of Christ
Vilonia, Arkansas
Speakers: Oran Burt, Dean
Fugett, Dennis Gullede,
Tom German, Bob Harris,
Ted Knight, David Riley
and Robert Swain.

Join The Ladies
Saturday, April 18th
9:00 AM thru 12:30 PM
Beebe Church of Christ
1906 W. Center Street
(Exit 28 off 67/167'
East ½ mile)
Bible Study on Mary
and Martha
"Am I Choosing the
Good Part?"
Speaker: Becky Blackmon
To Register Call: Bonnie
Graham (501) 786-5534 or
Jarretta Rose (501) 882-
3932

Spring Sale
Southern Christian Home
April 24 thru April 25

April Birthdays

02 Iva Lay
06 Andrea Henson
09 Skylar Creel
Suzy Pennington
12 Beverly Myers
14 Danielle Smith
15 Loredana Qualls
16 Zach Pennington
17 Shannon Walters
18 Gicala Lee
19 Earlene Davis
20 Earl Stamps
21 Mario Litch
22 Curtis Rackley
Brett Walters
23 Rusty Parker
25 Hoyt Ensey
27 Sharon Rackley
29 Kati Pennington
30 Lindsey Hollis

If we missed your birthday,
please let us know so it won't
happen again.

"In Search of the
Lord's Way"
Now 24/7

The Search Program
can now be accessed
any time on website:
www.searchtv.org
Mack Lyon's weekly
lesson can be heard
and seen on
KARK, Channel 4
Sunday, 7:30 AM

THOSE TO SERVE

April 12, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Lee Henson
Larry Mahan

Communion

Podium: Marion Helton
Serve: Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Besterfeldt

Scripture Reading

Donny Forehand

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Jim Killer
Joe Miller

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Charlene Clark

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman

Greeters

Gary & Sonia Williams

Wednesday Night

Devotional April 15, 2009

Tommy Oakes

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

6:30 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams

Church Office: 479-331-3428

Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer

Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

Life Lines is a Publication of the Dover Church of Christ

Editor: Pat McAlister, Layout and Design: Joan Vance, Technical Assistance: M. Shoptaw

Dover Church of Christ
P.O. Box 299
Dover, AR 72837
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dover, AR
Permit No. 18