



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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What God Wants To Do to Every Sinner

God has no desire to punish a single person. *“As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* (Ezekiel 33:11). He wants to have mercy upon all (Romans 11:32) and sent His Son to “. . . *taste of death for every man.*” (Hebrews 2:9)

So if God does not want to punish sinners, what does He want to do to them?

He wants to hug them. The first thing the loving father did to the prodigal boy was to hug him; he “. . . *fell on his neck, and kissed him.*” (Luke 15:20) That father represents God and that boy represents a sinner returning from the devil’s far country, so a fair deduction is that God longs to – spiritually speaking – wrap His omnipotent arms around each sinner who turns to Him.

He wants to take them home with Him. The second thing the loving father did was to restore the boy to his former position as a son in the family (Luke 15:22-24). Sleep in the servant’s quarters? The father wouldn’t hear of it. His son would get back his old room at the big house. When God forgives, He restores the offender to his former position of love and grace.

As the Civil War neared its conclusion, the war hawks of the North asked Abraham Lincoln what he would do with the rebellious Southerners. He replied, “I’ll treat them as if they had not gone away.” That’s what God longs to do, and ultimately He wants all of us to live with Him in the “big house” (many mansions) of heaven (John 14:1-2).

He wants to adopt them (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-7). The devil is the

father of sinners (John 8:44), but God longs to adopt each person into His eternal family. One concept tied to forgiveness is reconciliation, which is a social concept. With sin, we are estranged (separated) from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). In forgiveness Jesus’ blood satisfies God’s justice and allows us to draw near Him as He draws near us (Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 2:13; James 4:8). He wants to give us a new name (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26), new standing, new brothers and sisters (I Timothy 3:15), and inheritance (I Peter 1:4).

He wants to heal them. Sin renders our soul sick, cut, and diseased (Isaiah 1:5-6; Matthew 9:12; I Corinthians 11:30), but the Great Physician longs to bind every wound, pouring in oil and wine (Matthew 13:15; Mark 4:12). He wants to make us “sound” (II Timothy 1:7; Titus 2:2).

He wants to pay their bills. Most of us dread the monthly debits and bills that have become a part of most Americans’ lives. But there are debts that we incur for which there are no monthly reminders. Our sins have racked up quite a debt in God’s court. (The word *sin*, in its various forms, occurs 825 times in the Bible, and many more times than this in our lives). Just as violations of civil laws (speeding, fishing out of season, failure to pay taxes) have fines assigned to them, so violations of God’s laws gets us “fines” with God (Matthew 6:12). These debts will come due Judgment Day. When God forgives, however, He removes the notation of the offense from His record, (Acts 3:19) and He grants remission of the sin debt (Matthew 26:28; Acts 2:38). When God forgives, He remembers the sin no more for ever (Hebrews 8:12). God blots out the knowledge and history of sin (Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34).

He wants to give them a good night’s sleep. Oh the agony that many feel in the quiet of the night! They desire to relive life and not make the same mistakes, to be a better person, to fix the hurt they’ve done to others . . . on and on the mind runs. This longing for release for many manifests itself in seeking to forget with alcohol and drugs, come-and-go sexual experiences, extra hours, work, and the vain pursuit of power, money and things.

God has a better way to get a good night’s sleep. Sin does render us guilty (Exodus 34:7; Romans 3:19; I John 3:4) and punishable (Matthew 25:46; Mark 16:16), but forgiveness “justifies” (Romans 3:24-25; Acts 13:38-39). God grants us a full pardon (Psalm 25:11; Numbers 14:19-20). This means that God no longer holds us accountable for the offenses – the guilt is gone!

The New Testament word *forgiveness* (*apo*, “from,” and *hiemi* “to send”) literally means, “letting go; forgetting – as though it never happened; loosing from a debt; to send away (as from a debt); to bestow a favor unconditionally.” Every bad thought we ever thought is as if we had not thought it; every bad deed we ever did is as if we had not done it; every bad word we ever said is as if we had not said it; and every good deed we should have done, but did not, is as if we had done it.

Jesus never met a man He would not save. Look through the Gospel records and see for your self. You will never hear Him say, “Your case is too difficult for me.” He doesn’t leave any inkling of unwillingness or inability. He died for the sins of the world – all of them. He shed His blood for “the remission of sins” – all sins.

By Allen Webster

*Glad Tidings/Good Things
Jacksonville Church of Christ*

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlistier

"If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm, though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand." (Psalms 37:23-24 NIV)

How do we delight in the Lord? It takes dedication. It takes obedience. It is not a part-time, when we think of it, thing to do. It takes every day, not just on Sundays. It takes a lot of prayers and a lot of study. If we delight the Lord He will keep us on the right path. We will not stumble, He promises. The blessings will be enormous. Not in material things, but in peace of mind.

"No good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless." (Psalms 84:11b NIV) What a promise! This does not mean we must be perfect. We are human and we fail miserably. If our walk is on the right path we are forgiven when we fail. One good thing we have is our faith and hope. These two help as we struggle to keep on the right path. His grace saves us.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

There are so many directions for us in the Scriptures; all kinds of good advice if we but heed it. We are foolish to try to do it alone or do it from our own ideas or opinions. His are so much better, and they are right!

The path we take may seem right to us, but the Scriptures caution us about directing our own footsteps. *"It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." (Jeremiah 10:23b NKJV)* Using our own knowledge can cause a pitfall. Unless we use the directions given by the Lord we will most likely stumble.

The choices we make each day can cause us to walk uprightly or they can make us stumble. Depending on God and His word is the best choice we can make. Unless God directs our path we will fall. And this fall can lead us to eternal destruction.

Remember Our Sick

Shirley Chisum – Athel Hill's daughter, diagnosed with cancer, treatments started.

Jim Dempsey – friend of Leota Hickey, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Arlis Dotson – Kim M. Joan V. friend, extremely serious accident to his arm, much pain, facing a long recovery.

Pat Holloway – high risk lung surgery July 9th,

Linda McDaniel – Rex McDaniel's mother, knee replacement June 24th, doing well.

Ray Nichols – successful pace-maker surgery June 23rd, home recovering.

Gary Nicholson – many health issues.

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
Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Betty Bailey, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, James & Shirlee Chadwick, Troy & Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Larry & Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Rose Lee, Janette Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, Kristen Nordin, Mary Ann Rutherford, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Sherry Strick, Juanita Townsend and Judy Will.

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

Our Military: D. J. Bandy, Jr., Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan, Billy Joe Ralston and others serving our country.

Prayers & Sympathy for the family and friends of Robert Sutherlin, the father of Teresa Parker. Memorial services Saturday, July 4, 2009, Cloverdale, Indiana.

The Best Day Of My Life

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did, I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger. I will go through this day with my head held high, and with a happy heart. I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers and the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

Tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life.

I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be . . .

THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!

Author Unknown
From: Home Touch

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

Camp Caudle

Camp Sessions are as
follows;

Teen Week: July 19th thru
25th, 13 years old by
October 1st to High School
graduates.

Registrations: mail to Camp
Caudle, POB 1311, Dover, AR
72837

Items needed: ice-pops,
pre-sweetened fruit
punch & lemonade in
canisters, canned soda,
cookies, etc., bring to
church office.

Dover Church of Christ Vacation Bible School July 27th thru 31st

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Ladies' Night
Thursday, 16th, 7 PM
Hostess: Cara
Williams

Dover Lawn Care
Saturday, July 25th
Chris Moss
Kevin Nordin

PARKING LOT "GIVEAWAY"

Saturday, July 18th
From 7:00AM thru
2:00PM
at the Dover Church of
Christ's parking lot.

Need Clothes, all sizes,
Household items, linens,
Decorative items, Small
appliances, microwaves,
mixers, vacuums, Tools,
Baby items and children's
items. (Do not bring anything
you would not use yourself,
broken or too large for the
women to move around).

Collecting will begin
Wednesday, July 15 thru
Friday, July 17, in the
basement of the church
building.

July Birthdays

15 Dan Straight
16 Chris Ramirez
Rex McDaniel
Diane Walters
17 Kim Statler
23 William Robbins
Emily Walker
Earl Whitted
25 Becky Miller
26 Valentina Penno
30 James Chadwick
31 Wyatt Henson
Kim Miller

Back to School Party
Saturday, August 1st
At the Veasman's
6:00 PM
Younger Children only
For more info:
Keri Letson
Leigh Ann Forehand

"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

July 19, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Donny Forehand
Drew Walters

Communion

Podium: Allen Veasman
Serve: William Boley
Alan Boatright
Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger

Scripture Reading

Lee Henson

Sunday P.M.
Prayers

Chris Moss
Brett Walters

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Earl & Mary Stamps

Communion to Shut-Ins

Earl Whitted

Greeters

Jim & JoAnn Killer

Wednesday Night Devotional

July 22, 2009

Sid Womack

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

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Dover Church of Christ
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