



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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Fighting in the Pews

Have you ever thought about the battles being fought in our pews? If we sleep through the sermon or just let our minds wander. If we pass the time planning lunch or the events of the next week, then there are not many battles where we sit. But if we examine ourselves as we listen to a sermon (II Corinthians 13:5) and measure our conduct by God's Word (James 1:22-25) there is a battle within us. When we honestly compare our lives to that Word to see if we measure up to what God would have us be, most would honestly admit to falling short (Romans 3:23) and therefore struggling to improve in our efforts to be more like Jesus.

Another kind of fight going on in the pew is the individual with a secret/private sin, who doesn't want to give up that part of their life and fully obey God's law. They hope others do not know, and battle their own conscience (Psalm 19:14, 90:8). Although we may not be aware of them, I am sure that there are many such silent fights occurring every week.

There is a more open fight that we can see and hear—the training of our young children. Parents have a tremendous responsibility when those

began to develop their own personalities (Proverbs 22:6). This is a fight we dare not lose. Busy little hands, minds and feet. They can now do the things we have spent hours teaching them to do. They talk; they can walk! Now it becomes a power struggle. This is the first step in learning submission. It's a slow yet powerful process, and it is a fight that sometimes determines the course of their lives, and to some extent, ours.

There was once a young mother with several small children, who sometimes left one son home because of such a struggle. He later died without obeying the gospel. Upon learning of her son's death, that mother's cry was, "Oh, what about his soul?"

If children don't learn to obey their parents, how or when will they learn obedience to God? Will they respect any authority later? Can we afford to let this slide by until they are older? Little ones are cute; they have short attention spans and they often have to "go potty." However, we must succeed in teaching them to develop self-control, respect for authority and reverent obedience to God. What beautiful people these children become when these qualities are instilled at an age where they become part of the very character of an individual.

Young mothers, don't grow weary, don't lose sight of your goal, and don't give up (Galatians 6:9). It's well worth the fight. If you don't do it now while that wonderful bundle of energy is young, when will you do it? When he is six and encounters worldly ways in school? When she is twelve and her acquaintances are smoking or drinking? When they turn sixteen and are tempted to enter into an intimate relationship? Subduing and bring into obedient subjection is not breaking a child's spirit but directing them into a path that will serve them well all his/her life.

From outer space to the depths of the ocean floor, and all the wonders between, if we are small-town locals or a worldwide adventurer, regardless of our achievements, simple or great, in the end when all things are stripped away we will eventually stand "naked" before God to be judged (II Corinthians 5:10). At that time, will it not be for our hearts, our patience, our self-control, our willing submission to His will, and our obedience to His Word – the same things that began being taught in this fight in the pew – that will determine our eternal destiny?

Keep fighting in the pews!

Jean Ammons
Glad Tidings of Good Things
Jacksonville Church of Christ

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

This is a quote from Neale Pryor, retired professor at Harding University. In, "What Does it Mean to be Faithful?" he states, "We hear of many who want to be saved like the thief on the cross and just turn to Jesus right before death. But we seldom hear of anyone who asks why he cannot be saved like the rich ruler by selling all he has and giving it to the poor."

*Gospel Advocate
October 2006*

This is a very good thought. I had never thought of this in this way. Most of us want the easy way out. We will take the easy road every time. Few, if any, will choose the difficult road. This is human nature.

Many wait for a more convenient time. We don't want to make the commitment right now. We struggle, trying for perfection. Perfection is only mentioned in regard to Jesus. He asks us to follow His example but has never asked us to be perfect. That is not possible for us. We are asked to pray and strive to be like Him.

Many do wait until late in life to obey the gospel. And when they do finally make up their mind they do it wholeheartedly. They are very devout, doing as much as possible. Most would tell you though that they wished they had made the decision earlier in their life. They wasted many good years. But we don't always do as we should. We have many regrets in our life.

It would be best to want to be saved like the rich young ruler was told to do, by selling all he had and giving it to the poor. Many wait, and it is possible to do that. We learn this from the parable given by Jesus to His disciples about the laborers in the vineyard. Those that worked one hour of the day were given the same as those who worked all day in the hot sun. (Matthew 20:1-16) God wants all to repent. In our way of thinking that doesn't seem fair. However, our thoughts are not God's thoughts. These late comers are saved by the grace of God.

How long can you wait? Sadly, many wait until it is too late. I wouldn't

Continued, third column, same page

Remember Our Sick

Bill Barkley – Pat McAlister son-in-law and Alec's dad - back surgery, August 10th, Denver, CO.

Lawrence Boley – home, respiratory problems.

Ramona Brooks – Blood Clot.

Charles Hickey – experiencing more pain, on morphine patch.

Leota Hickey – eye surgery (transplant) July 31, surgery successful.

Liliya McDaniel – experiencing some serious health problems.

Ray Motley – Teresa Motley's father-in-law, back in hospital, serious.

Jim Lackey – diagnosed with cancer, seriously ill.

Thula LaRue – home, facing a long recovering from surgery.

Annie Robinson – Mike Creel's sister, cancer no longer in remission, home, on chemo, doctors hopeful.

Don Sheeran – serious health problems, heart/gall-bladder, no date on possible surgery as yet.

Bonnie Vinson – running various tests.

Earl Whitted – Arterial-gram test, results good.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits.

Dover Area:

Bernice Brown

Evelyn Burton

Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver

Thelma Hatcher

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Daisy Hogins Anderson, Bob Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Jeff Davis, Anna Deimund, Don Eichenberger, Charles Ensey, Hoyt Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, David Guthrie, Ray King, Robert and Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Bill McAlister, Charles Proctor, Summer Russell, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Billy Walters, Joyce Walters, and David Walters.

Special Children: Elysia Lee, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Military: Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

Death

Death was walking toward a city one morning and a man asked, "What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to take 100 people," Death replied.

"That's horrible!" the man said.

"That's the way it is," Death said.

"That's what I do."

The man hurried to warn everyone he could about Death's plan. As evening fell, he met Death again,

"You told me you were going to take 100 people. Why did 1,000 die?"

"I kept my word," Death responded. "I only took 100 people. Worry took the others."

There is some truth behind this punch line. According to the United States National Mental Health Committee, half of all the people in America's hospital beds are constant worriers.

One would suppose that if you're lying on a hospital bed, it's no wonder you are worrying. The bigger surprise is that there aren't more worriers in hospitals.

Yet, a little worry could be a good thing. It might inspire us to exercise more and eat right. Yet, mental distress can lead to migraine headaches, arthritis, heart trouble, cystitis, colitis, backaches, ulcers, depression, digestive disorders and, yes, death.

The bottom line is that worry signals the end of faith.

Let us do our best to give our life and death into the hands of God, and then live each day that God has given us to the fullest!

Prayer: Holy God, it is natural for us mortals to wonder and worry, but we were created to live by faith. Help me to cast aside my fears and face today with confidence. Amen.

From Home Touch

Lines for Ladies, continued from column one, same page

advise anyone to wait until a more convenient time. We can't wait until we are good enough.

None of us know the day or hour that will be our last. It is too risky to wait!

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

Planning Meeting Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes

Sunday, August 19
After morning services for
those who plan to go to the
National Convention.
POTLUCK

Ladies Night!

Rescheduled
For
Thursday
August 23, 7 PM

Hostess:
Carolyn Bennett

Mark Your Calendars

Announcement

Chris Buxton at ATU Church of Christ Student Center will be teaching a for-credit course this fall on Acts of the Apostles. This course can be counted by ATU students as a general elective, but is also open to anyone who enrolls through Harding's Institute for Church and Family distance learning program. It is possible to audit the course if you aren't interested in taking it for a credit.

For more information contact Chris Buxton at CCSC (479-968-2626) or Harding's Institute for Church and Family (501-279-4660)

"In Search of the Lord's Way"

Now 24/7

The Search Program can
now be accessed at any time
website: www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon's weekly lesson
can be heard and seen on
KARK, Channel 4, Sunday,
7:30 AM.

August Birthdays

- 01 Jacob Boley
Connor Chance
- 02 Ana Marie Lawley
- 03 Frances Kennedy
Wes Walker
- 05 Pauline Dale
- 06 Josh Pennington
- 10 Karen Womack
- 13 Blake Forehand
- 14 Russell Boley
Carolyn Clark
- 19 Drew Walters
Creek Jackson
- 21 Lois Boley
Donny Forehand
Merrell Shoptaw
- 25 Corey Hottinger
Jana McGuire
- 27 Shirlie Chadwick
- 28 Steve Pennington
- 29 Troy Curtis
- 31 Matthew Roberts
Dennis Whiteside

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

Lawn Schedule

Saturday, August 25th

Rick Hollis
Silas Powers

THOSE TO SERVE

August 19, 2007

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Dennis Whiteside
Earl Whitted

Communion

Podium: Chris Loper
Serve: Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis
William Boley
Robert Bird

Scripture Reading

Rick Hollis

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Gary Williams
Jim Killer

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman
Blake Forehand

Greeters

Allen and Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional

August 22, 2007

Blake Forehand

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
7:00 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
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Kaeli Miller
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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