



Life Lines

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

Volume 21 Number 37

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

September 20, 2009

“ENJOYABLE” PREACHING?

In the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, a controversial figure emerged from the Judean wilderness to captivate the Jewish people and their leaders. His curious clothing and emphatic manner stirred people’s imagination. Some wondered if he could be the promised Messiah of God. (Luke 3:45) But the man himself, whose name was John, claimed only to be the forerunner of the Messiah. (John 1:19-23)

Great multitudes flocked out to hear him preach. They went for many reasons. Some were merely curious. Others were looking for excitement. Still others went to scoff and sneer! But many responded to his message of repentance by being baptized in the Jordan River for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

Among those who heard John the Baptist preach was King Herod Antipas. John was arrested by Herod because he condemned Herod’s adulterous marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife. (Mark 6:18) Still Herod sought opportunities to hear John preach because he knew he was “*a righteous and holy man.*” (Mark 6:20) How startling to learn that even Herod “enjoyed” John’s preaching! The Bible says: “*And*

when they heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.” (Mark 6:20 NAS) The man who ended up murdering John liked to listen to him preach! What food for thought there is in that incredible inconsistency!

Preaching Is Not Primarily Intended To Be Enjoyed:

Preaching is meant to produce change. Its goal is the salvation of souls. (I Corinthians 1:24) Preachers are commanded to “*reprove, rebuke, and exhort.*” (Timothy 4:2) They are to use the faithful word, “*to exhort on sound doctrine and refute those who contradict.*” (Titus 1:9 NAS) Preaching ought to be challenging, searching, disturbing and even provoking. It should wake the sleeping, rebuke the erring, stir the complacent, exhort the faltering and convict the lost. Preaching is not to be enjoyed but to be obeyed. The proper response is not appreciation but application!

Preaching Can Be “Enjoyed” Without It Having Any Effect:

Herod enjoyed John’s preaching but refused to obey it. (Matthew 7:29; 15:8-9) In the days of Ezekiel, many enjoyed his preaching but refused to obey his message. God said to Ezekiel: “*You are like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for*

they hear your words, but they do not practice them.” (Ezekiel 33:32 NAS) Too many people hear a sermon, pat the minister on the back and go away without any intention of living the lesson they have heard.

A Certain Type of Enjoyment Indicates Spiritual Shallowness:

While we ought to appreciate good Gospel preaching and be stirred by it, we can be guilty of enjoying it in the wrong way. We may enjoy preaching because we think it is directed at someone else and not us. Or we may enjoy preaching because it upholds our prejudices. We may even enjoy preaching as a performance put on for our entertainment. We may even enjoy a sermon because it says what our itching ears want to hear. (II Timothy 4:3) When we “enjoy” preaching too much, it may be an indicator that we are hearing but not doing.

Herod “enjoyed” John’s preaching but he never responded to it. He never confessed his sinfulness, never repented and never changed his life. Perhaps we also “enjoy” listening without ever really intending to do anything about what we have heard. In the end what matters is not whether we enjoy it but whether we do it! (Acts 17:30)

By: Bobby Dockery, The Seeker
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (II Corinthians 7:10)

No regrets, because we have repented. We have actually turned from our sins with a new hope that awaits us. We have godly sorrow, true repentance. Then there is worldly sorrow, just being sorry about our sins; sins that have caused us problems. We have suffered pain from the consequences and we are very sorry, but not a sorrow that leads to repentance. It is not a godly sorrow where we make a change in our sinful life. Although, we could truly repent, just for a season. That wouldn't be according to the will of God.

Paul had admonished the Corinthians, not to hurt them, but to help them. In verses 8 and 9, he tells them that he knew he caused them sorrow but he didn't regret it. They only had sorrow for a while. They were made sorrowful to the point of repentance, which was good. ***“For you were made sorrowful according to the will of God.”***

Most likely, some of them got their feelings hurt and therefore resented Paul. Just as we could today. Bring hurt and resentful could only bring worldly sorrow, which does not lead to repentance. This also does not lead to salvation.

Criticism is no fun, even for the best intentions. But often it is needed and given in love, just as Paul had done. He had love for them. He was concerned for their souls. It wasn't easy for him, either, ***“. . . for out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.”*** (II Corinthians 2:4)

Often we are sorry about some wrong we have done, only because it has affected us adversely. Maybe no one else was affected so we let it pass by. Let's hope the things we do that are wrong, bother us enough, that we will have godly sorrow that brings repentance, as those Christians at Corinth.

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett – on oxygen – apmt. Sept. 15,th ct scan.

James Chadwick – enlarged pulmonary artery, getting only 30% oxygen.

Nancy Cummings – health issues.

Frank Colvin- coming home Sept. 11th

Roger Lay – diagnosed with cancer.

Gwen Milligan – Leukemia with pneumonia.

Carolyn Statler – Jamie Statler's mother, hospitalized, bad auto wreck.

Earl Whitted – diagnosed with cancer, appointment Sept. 10th, Little Rock

Pray for the cure of cancer!

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Evelyn Burton
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:
Joyce Austin
Helen Brown
Evelyn Driver
Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: Louise Killer
Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Jim Dempsey, Charles Ensey, Larry/Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Rose Lee, Janette Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary & Doreen Shinn, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, 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: prayers for D. J. Bandy, Jr., Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan, Billy Joe Ralston and others serving our nation.

Coffee . . .

Starbucks has begun selling instant coffee.

The ubiquitous McCoffee house chain that's on every other neighborhood corner in the U.S. and around the world began selling what they call "soluble" coffee, called VIA, in stores for \$2.95 for a pack of three and \$9.95 for a pack of 12. At Costco, a 24 pack costs \$15.98, about 67 cents a cup.

Soluble coffee is a fancy way of saying, "instant coffee."

What is the world coming to?

An internal corporate memo revealed that Starbucks has "been working on this project for over 20 years," and that they have a patent pending on the technology that will enable them to "absolutely replicate the taste of Starbucks coffee in an instant form."

We'll see. As Howard Swartz, founder, has always said, "The proof is in the cup."

Starbucks used to be valued because it offered "real" coffee, the best flavor coaxed from the best beans imported from the best coffee fields.

I like what Maya Angelou once said when told by someone that she'd become a Christian only the day before. "Really," Angelou asked, "that fast?"

Is the world really looking for a better instant coffee? Is the world really looking for instant Christians?

Does the world want fake Christians who think if they simply smell right and look right, that this is enough?

Prayer: Lord, let me offer a strong, fragrant aroma to the world – the fragrance of love, grace and kindness. But let my life back up that scent with the strong taste of good deeds, caring actions and encouraging words. In Jesus' name. Amen

Timothy Merrill
Home Touch

“If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place.”

Nora Roberts

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 Lawn Care
Saturday,
September 26th
Paul Helton
Michael Robbins

Dover Church of Christ
Hiway Trash Pick-up
Saturday, September 19th
Church Parking Lot 8 AM

Dover Ladies Night
Thursday, 7 PM
September 17th
Hostess: Marilyn
Veasman

Mark Your Calendars

Memorial

The Dover Church of Christ Ladies Food Brigade received a donation in memory of Clara Hefley from the Dover Class of '53. (Clara was in the class of 1953.)

DOVER GUARDS/GIFTS
Will meet September 20th
Sunday, 4:00 PM

OZARK MEMORIES DAY

September, 26th,
Last Saturday in
September

See Amanda Besterfeldt
for Float Building!!

"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

September Birthdays

02 Rhonda Creel
Johnny Estes
Ray Nichols
05 Leota Hickey
06 Deidre Luker
09 Joyce Helton
16 Susan Straight
17 Danielle Stepanovic
Melissa Pagan
19 Michael Robbins
20 Jannie Myers
21 Dimitrios Tsigourlas
Michaela Walker
22 Nathan Killer
23 Rylie Boley
24 Wayne Strickland
Alan Walker
Gary Williams
25 Joshua Besterfeldt
26 Justin Vaughn
28 Yvonne Adkisson
Janie Beck
Donna Walters

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

Ladies Day

Saturday, September 19th
Registration 8:45 AM
Clarksville Church of Christ
Hwy 64 West – P O B 117
Clarksville, Arkansas 72830
Phone: (479) 754-3360:
E-mail:
clarksvillechurchofchrist
@yahoo.com
Speaker: Bonita Graham
Please R.S.V.P. by e-mail,
phone or letter by Monday,
September 14, 2009.

THOSE TO SERVE

SPEAKER

September 20, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Sid Womack
Steve Pennington

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted
Serve: William Boley
Michael Robbins
Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis

Scripture Reading

Tommy Oakes

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Rex McDaniel
Merrell Shoptaw

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Chris & Amanda Besterfeldt

Communion to Shut-Ins

Donny Forehand

Greeters

Gary & Sonia Williams

Wednesday Night Devotional

September 23, 2009

Earl Whitted

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