



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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THUMPS

How do you test a watermelon or cantaloupe to see if it's ripe? You thump it! If it's mature it will give off a deep resonant "thud," if it's still green it will have a higher pitched sound-a-kind of "boink."

There are also "thumps" which come to us in life which test our character. Usually, when they come, we cry, "Why me . . . ?" And sometimes the "thumps" are more than mere taps – they are devastating blows! They may come in the form of the loss of a job, or sickness, or disappointment, or the death of a loved one. But the point is that such situations show how mature we are. They either bring out the best or the worst in us. We can react with irritation, anger, despair, etc. or we can meet our "thumps" with courage, patience and forbearance. Jesus said that the way we react depends on what we have in our hearts! (Matthew 12:34-35) ***"You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil."***

How should we react when the "thumps" of life come?

(First) **Prepare Yourself For Them.** They are bound to come. They must be accepted as normal and natural rather than as something unusual. No one is immune. Even Christ was, ". . . a man of sorrows

and acquainted with griefs." (Isaiah 53:3) ***"Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of troubles,"*** Job said. (14.1) This being true, we should (1) Prepare ourselves with prayer. (Luke 18:1); (2) Learn from great men and women of faith. Read God's book to learn how others have responded to the trying situations in their lives. Lean on those whose spiritual maturity can be helpful; and (3) Meet "thumps" head on. Above all, seek God's will in submission and hope.

(Second) **Thank God For Them.** Incredible as it may seem, our "thumps" will do us good if we will let them. *"Troubles are often the tools which God uses to fashion us for better things."* They are a reminder that we are still under construction – that God is still at work on us. ***"For whom the Lord loves He disciplines . . ."*** (Hebrews 12:6) God has often used "thumps" to prepare for greater service: Moses was hardened for leadership in the wilderness of Median; Hosea learned to preach out of bitter personal experience; Paul was honed for usefulness by his thorn in the flesh. We need to learn to obey I Thessalonians 5:18 – ***"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you."***

(Third) **Learn From Them.** Thumps can be a great teacher. Some of life's most valuable lessons come this way. We learn experience, patience, compassion, sympathy for others, courage and endurance. When "thumps" come we must not retreat from life.

Instead, we must keep the faith, continue with the race, face up to the situation. Our "thumps" may be teaching us things that we cannot learn any other way.

What seems like disaster to us may turn out to be for our good. May God help us never to forget that ***"All things work for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."*** (Romans 8:28)

". . . but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience, hope ." (Romans 5:3-4)

Bobby Dockery
The Seeker
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Do I have to go to church?

- Do you have to hug your little children?
- Do you have to remember your wife's birthday?
- Do you have to call when you're late coming home from work?
- Do you have to buy Christmas gifts for your family?
- Do you have to attend ball games and band functions in which your children are involved?
- Do you have to attend the funeral of a close friend or loved one?
- Do you have to say, "I love you" when you love someone?

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

By Steve Higginbotham
From House to House/Heart to Heart
Jacksonville, Alabama

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

It was first said by Isaiah, the prophet, in his prayer to the Lord. He said, *“Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.”* (Isaiah 64:4 NIV) Then Paul quoted this in his writings to the church at Corinth. He said, *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has received what God has prepared for those who love Him.”* (I Corinthians 2:9 NIV)

Those who love the Lord and obey Him enjoy a peace while living in this world. But we can only imagine the peace we will enjoy in the world to come.

What could be more beautiful than the stars in the universe on a clear, bright night? What could be more beautiful than the change of leaves in the fall? We enjoy the beauty of the seasons, from the flower and buds in the springtime to the snow covered meadows in the winter. With such beauty here, we cannot fathom the beauty He will have for us in heaven.

Besides all the wonder that we cannot imagine in beauty, we will also have a life with no sin to tempt us. We will not be sad, have no pain and no worries. Stress will be a lost word. Have you thought about some of the vices that tempt us now? We won't be concerned about smoking, over-eating, too many bills, gambling and other things that are problems in this life. We will no longer worry about lost souls.

We won't have these temptations, because this life He offers us is an eternal life. It isn't a temporary place; it is a permanent place to be with Him, Jesus, the angels and the other saints.

We can't know these things because Paul also said, *“Who has known the mind of the Lord?”* (I Corinthians 2:16) His thoughts are not our thoughts. His plans are so far above what we can even think!

There are no adequate words, in our language, to tell of the greatness He has in store for us, for those who love and obey Him.

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett – hospitalized with pneumonia.

Eugene Cox – son-in-law of Bob/Rose Lee, moved from Cape Girardeau, MO. to Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Critical.

Leonard Crout – (coroner of Pope County) recovering from surgery. McDaniel's friend.

Hoyt Ensey – serious health issues.

Paul Griffin – Hospice

Joanna & Jim Gurest – Chris Sheeran's friend. **Joanna** had open-heart surgery Monday, August 26th.

Garrett Hogan – age 7 months, home, lots of therapy.

Eddie Holloway – recovering from back surgery.

Cleon Johnson – Paul Helton's mother, had surgery, UAMS, LR.

Gary Nicholson – Shirlye Chadwick's son, slowly recovering.

Rodney Pfeifer – Has started Chemo and radiation treatments.

Don Sheeran – acute Cerebral palsy.

Juanita Townsend – Diabetes complications.

Shut-ins - need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver

Melba Hodges

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Mae Vanzandt

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Wm. /Susie Boley, Jamie/Mary Ann Churchill, Troy/ Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Virginia Grant, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Ruby Gene Johnson, Dorothy King, Jim Lackey, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith and Judy Will.

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

Our Military: Cole Wetzell, D. J. Bandy and Travis Coe.

“I’m Sorry”

Want the key to a lasting marriage? Try apologizing to your spouse! A study of 7,950 Americans conducted by pollsters Zogby for ThePearlOutlet.com found that having a willingness to apologize strengthens a couple's bond.

“The secret of a lasting marriage is being prepared to accept that the other person has an equally valid viewpoint and being willing to apologize because you love them and want them to be happy,” says Andrea Marshall, a marital therapist and author.

Married folks are also far more likely than singles to apologize first when they feel they're just partly to blame for an argument. Why? People who are dating often believe if a relationship isn't perfect you should just move on, but those in a marriage have realized the perfect relationship doesn't happen overnight.

From: *Marriage Partnership*

House to House/Heart to

Heart

“Go humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.” (Proverbs 6:3)

The Perfect Man

A panel of women debated in what they thought was a perfect man. You should have thought they would have decided upon some actor or athlete or even a wealthy tycoon. They decided that the perfect man was MR. POTATO HEAD.

They gave four reasons: He's tan, he's cute, he knows the importance of accessorizing and if he looks at another girl you can rearrange his face.

Guy McGraw

“A merry heart doeth good.” (Proverbs 17:22)

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's Lawn Mowing
Schedule
Saturday, September 27th
Larry Mahan
Andy Jackson

Area Wide Youth Devo
3rd Sunday,
September 21st,
5:30 PM
River Valley Church of
Christ
1005 Interstate Rd.,
Clarksville, AR

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

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

Mark Your Calendars

2008 – 2009

Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes
Overall Theme:
". . . *All that You command*
us we will do,
and wherever You send us we
will go."
(Joshua 1:16)

Lads to Leaders
and Leaderettes

Will meet/: First & Third
Sundays, 4PM
Boys: GUARD (Guys
Understanding Authority and
Real Discipleship
Girls: GIFTS (Girls In
Fellowship and Team Study

LADIE'S NIGHT

October 10th
6:00 – 9:00 PM
(Dinner Served)
Center Ridge Church of
Christ
Theme: "Pearls of Wisdom"

Southern Christian Home
Kaleidoscope Fish Fry
and Auction

Saturday, October 11th
Buffet Fish Dinner 5:30 PM
Pleasant Valley Church of
Christ in Little Rock
Tickets are \$25.00 per person
More info: 501-354-2428

September Birthdays

02 Rhonda Creel
05 Leota Hickey
06 Deidre Luker
07 Ian Roberts
09 Joyce Helton
Connie Myers
16 Susan Straight
17 Danielle Stepanovich
Mellissa Pagan
20 Jannie Myers
21 Dimitrois 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.

WINGS

(Women In God's Service)
West Side Church of Christ
Thursdays, (Starting
September 25)
From 9 AM – 11:30 AM
Study: "Conversation Peace –
The Power of Transformed
Speech"
By: Mary Kassian
(workbook/video study)

THOSE TO SERVE

September 21, 2008

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Marion Helton
Joe Miller

Communion

Podium: Alan Boatright
Serve: Sid Womack
Brett Walters
Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis

Scripture Reading

Tommy Oakes

Sunday P.M. Prayers

“Young Men”
“Young Men”

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
“Young Men”

Prepare Table for Communion

Marion & Joyce Helton

Communion to Shut-Ins

Alan Boatright
William Boley

Greeters

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional

September 24, 2008

William Boley

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

Nursery Attendants:

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

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Dover Church of Christ
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