



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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September 25, 2005

## MY LINES

Micah Williams

### Chaos and Creation

*"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." (Psalms 96:3-6)*

Some of us have a sense of hopelessness in life. We see the bad in everything and seldom look at the good. We see and feel despair, chaos and emptiness.

According to Genesis' creation story, God created the universe by executive command, without any resistance or struggle. There was darkness or a void and God created light. There was no life and God created life. God created out of chaos and disorder. ". . . surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." Chaos is not evil, rather it is disorder.

God continues to create and invites man into the ongoing creative process. God said it and it was done . . . by a simple spoken word God created.

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"*

(Genesis 1:26) Man is given a divine blessing which gives him dominion and power over the earth. Man is created in the "image or likeness" of God. Man is

God's representative on earth, just as a child represents the parent in a family.

Corruption of God's creation-which occurs with Adam and Eve. (Genesis Chapter 3) Man's fall – kicked out of the garden and the tree of life is removed. Man becomes corrupt.

*"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made thee.'" (Genesis 6:5-7)*

But Noah found favor in God's eyes. He set up a covenant with Noah and all creation. *"Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood to destroy the earth." (Genesis 9:9-11)*

We find chaos once again in Exodus with the children of Israel captured and in slavery. God provides a way of escape.

The Babylonian king and the exile; God provides and helps them come back.

The Israelites become corrupt with idolatry and all forms of evil.

God sends prophets. Samuel, by God's leading, anointed Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was disobedient to God. God provided another king in David.

*Even in the last word of the Old Testament we see despair.*

From the beginning of the New Testament we see chaos or hopelessness with the first born males being killed.

But God provides a way of escape for Jesus.

We see Rome has taken over Israel and the people want a savior. God provides them and all mankind with one in Jesus. Not physical freedom but Spiritual freedom.

We see hopelessness on the death of Christ. Disciples leave Him, people are upset, but Christ rises from the dead.

We see helplessness and despair (chaos) in the Bible. But we also see HOPE.

God provides for those who are His. Creation chaos to order.

Even when Adam sinned and fell short, God provided. *"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, 'Behold the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil . . .'" (Genesis 3:21-22)*

God provides again in Christ. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26)*

Freed from the fall's bondage:

Old Nature of man corrupt - New Nature: *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (II Corinthians 5:17)* "In Christ" we are a new humanity for a new existence.

The river and the Tree of life: (Revelation chapter 22) The flood all wiped away – God provides an escape and creates everything new.

God destroyed first with water the next will be by fire.

God has never changed. In Him there is HOPE, FREEDOM and PEACE.

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

### It Will Be Better After The Storm

Brian J. Tipton

The pictures of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina are overwhelming. The city of New Orleans is under water. As of today (Tuesday) there are at least 80 who have died in Harrison County. The pictures along Biloxi's coastline are amazing. Where once proud buildings stood, now stand rent and torn structures ready for the demolitionists hammer. We saw phrases like, "This is our Tsunami!" and "Total Devastation." How are people going to rebuild? How can life ever be as good as it once was?

There is a tragic side to the loss and to the pain. None of us wants to experience it and yet, loss and pain gives the observant person a chance to see life as it really is – fragile and precious. We begin to filter through all the things we once cared about and see what is truly important and what is not so important. When asked about his loses, one man, whose wife was ripped from his arms and their home was split in half by the storm, could only say, "She told me, 'You can't hold me . . . take care of the children and the grandkids . . .'"

Now, I'm not about to say something stupid like this was all in God's providence, or God caused this to happen, or it was His will that this man's wife be ripped from his arms as he tried to save her. A lot of amateur theologians would say something crass like this and it does nothing but hurt people and forces them to question how good God can be. And yet, God will play a big role in how we deal with life after the storm.

God can use the bad and turn it into good. Paul says in Romans 8:28, "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" God is able to take horrible things and bring wonderful blessings out of them. Think about it. When Stephen was stoned to death and the church persecuted, the Gospel spread more rapidly. When Paul was thrown into prison, the Gospel was

*Continued, third column, same page*

## Remember Our Sick

**Jerri Gentry** – Rick Hollis' mother-in-law, a knee replacement recently.

**Hayden Jones** – Rick Hollis' father-in-law, diagnosed with cancer. Lives in Midland, TX.

**Randy Holland** – fighting cancer.

**Robert Lee** – congestive heart failure, angioplasty surgery Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, came home Saturday, doing well.

**Shut-ins:** Needs your prayers and visits. Dover Area:

**Evelyn Burton**

**Louise Killer**

**Mae Vanzandt**

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

**Thelma Hatcher**

**Esther Sparks**

### **Others Who Need Our Prayers:**

Ruby Boley, Susie Boley, Dennis Boyd, Donna Brewer, Bernice Brown, Jamie Churchill, Jason Coulter, Jeff Davis, Bennie Drewry, Ronda Fields, Brian Holloway, Louise Killer, Gigi Lane, Thula LaRue, Bill and Mary McAlister, Jerry Martin, Janetta Mason, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Tanya Smith, Harold and Mildred Turner, and Betty and David Walters.

**Expectant Mothers:** Kristen Loper Nordin, Shelley (Parker) Culwell.

**Special Children:** (Birth Defects) – Emmy May, Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin, Kaitlyn Schwartz and Noah Williams.

**Military:** Jon Allen, Greg Davis, and Cole Wetzel. Randall Nixon is stateside but is being sent to the Katrina Disaster Area.

**Prayers** for: the ones that have lost families, homes, etc., in the "wake of Katrina". Also, pray for the ones going into this area to be of assistance in this disaster.

**Special prayers** requested by Charlie Wayne Melton, Tabitha Turner's father, was recently appointed to an eldership at his church in Florida.

**Prayers and Sympathy** for the friends and family of Patricia Parker, William Parker's wife, who was killed in an auto accident in Dallas, TX., last week. Mr. Parker is still in the hospital at Tyler, TX, he is also the father to Rusty Parker.

## For Better or Worse

By: Tom Steed

Bulletin Digest

Job was an individual who had it all together. When things were going well and he was the richest and best known individual around, he worshiped and served God. When he lost his children and his fortune, he tore his robe, shaved his head and worshipped God. The classic statement, "*Naked came I from my mother's womb and naked I shall return,*" shows he had a handle on prosperity and adversity. In the words of Kipling, he was able to treat those two imposters just the same.

It is rare to see an individual who has the foresight and balance to remain steady in his faith in God, whether good or evil comes his way. Times and futures change. The rich become poor and the poor become rich. Some who occupied an exalted position have been brought low and vice versa.

To imitate the godliness of Job learn: whatever the circumstances be content.

When things go well – worship and give thanks. When things go poorly, worship and give thanks.

### *"It will be better after the storm"*

- *continued from column one* -

preached to Caesar's own household. And, moreover, Jesus' own death on the cross brought us life. When we hold on to God and trust Him, we will see the unfolding of His blessings in our lives.

Sometimes it is not a hurricane or a tornado or any other event. Sometimes the storms that try us are the way people treat us, the sicknesses in our families, the loss of a job and even the death of a loved one. The storms come in different shapes and forms, but they each have an ultimate purpose; to cause us to make a choice. And here is the choice: draw closer to God, knowing that He loves us, or drift away from God, because we blame Him for what has happened.

I hope that you will choose to see God as the one who will make all things better and draw closer to Him.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* (James 1:2-4)

## Events

### “In Search of the Lord’s Way”

Now 24/7

The Search Program can be accessed at any time on its website:

[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

Mack Lyon’s weekly lessons can be seen and heard any time in this area on KATV, Channel 4 on Sundays at 8:00 AM.

West Side Ladies’

### “WINGS”

September 8<sup>th</sup>

Thru

November 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Theme: Fragrance of Faith

Discover the Aroma of Christ in the Beatitudes

Child Care Provided

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## Mark Your Calendars

### Lawn Care

September 30th  
William Boley  
Allen Veasman

### Children’s Church

Dover Church of Christ  
**will be starting  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

For ages 2 to 6

Volunteers needed  
Contact: Chris or  
Julie Moss  
479-331-9707

Items needed: Paper towel tubes, small empty raisin boxes. You can leave these items at the church office.

### Men’s Business Meeting

Dover Church of Christ  
Monday, October 3rd,  
7:00 PM

### Meals on Wheels

Dover Church of Christ  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 7th  
Monday thru Friday

## September Birthdays

02 Rhonda Creel  
04 Tim Bushea  
05 Leota Hickey  
06 Deidre Luker  
07 Ian Roberts  
09 Joyce Helton  
Thelma Hatcher  
16 Susan Straight  
17 Kylee Bushea  
Danielle Williams  
Melissa Weinberg  
20 Jannie Myers  
21 **Dimitrios Tsigourlas**  
Michaela Walker  
22 Nathan Killer  
24 Wayne Strickland  
Alan Walker  
Gary Williams  
28 Donna Walters  
29 Larry McGuire  
30 Jennifer Bushea

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Dover Church  
of Christ  
Youth Devo

Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
After PM Church Service

Host: The Forehand’s

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***September 25, 2005***

## **Sunday A.M.**

**Announcer:** Randall Walters  
**Song Leader:** Jim Killer

### **Prayers**

Rex McDaniel  
Rick Hollis

### **Communion**

**Podium:** William Boley  
**Serve:** Troy Curtis  
Doug Wilson  
Sid Womack  
Robert Bird

### **Scripture Reading**

Earl Whitted

## **Sunday P.M. Prayers**

William Boley  
Doug Wilson

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

JoAnn Killer

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Earl Kennedy  
Earl Whitted

### **Greeters**

Robert and Juanita Bird

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**September 28, 2005**

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

### **Deacons:**

Donny Forehand  
Brent Hottinger  
Chris Loper  
Rex McDaniel  
Joe Miller

### **Nursery Attendants:**

**Sunday Class:** Carin Chance  
Sonia Williams

**Sunday Service:** Cara Williams

**Wednesday Class:** Marilyn Veasman

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