



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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October 04, 2009

## “Come Ye Disconsolate”

“Come Ye Disconsolate,” number 950 in our song book is a song I am looking forward to singing before too much longer. It is among the invitation songs with good reason.

What does it mean to be *disconsolate*? *Disconsolance* goes beyond being dismayed at getting caught at a sin. To be *disconsolate* is to be absolutely **sick** of sin – particularly a specific sin. Being *disconsolate* is to be so sick and tired of a repeated sin that the sin no longer brings any kind of pleasure. Revisiting the sin only brings personal spiritual and emotional pain. When one repeats that sin, he or she feels dirty all over.

“Come, ye disconsolate; wherever ye languish;  
Come, at the mercy-seat, fervently kneel;  
Here bring your wounded hearts,  
here tell your anguish;  
Earth has no sorrow that heav’n cannot heal,”

Being *disconsolate* begins with sorrow, but goes so much deeper. *Disconsolance* is a profound disappointment in oneself. After experiencing the same sin or sins again and again, one gets tired of all the lies that go along with the sin. Lies to others. Lies to oneself, such as, “I’ll change tomorrow,” “I won’t do it again starting Monday,” “I’ll turn over a new leaf on New Year’s,” or –

that most nebulous one of all – “I’ll stop doing that sin when the preacher or Bible class teacher gets around to denouncing it.”

“Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;  
Here speaks the Comforter,  
tenderly saying,  
‘Earth has no sorrow that heav’n cannot cure.’”

The exit from a *disconsolate* life comes by means of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. It is by means of the Holy Spirit that our hearts are pricked with guilt and we seek to rise to a higher standard. (Acts 2:37) To ignore those pangs of conscience is to perpetuate the life of darkness, a life that continues in a cesspool of sin. (Hebrews 6:4-6; I Timothy 4:1-2) We were born with consciences in order that those consciences could save us from ourselves. If we ignore the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through our consciences long enough, those consciences will finally go away. Then we **are** in trouble. (II Thessalonians 2:11-12) At that point the Spirit has been quenched. (I Thessalonians 5:19)

“Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing;  
Forth from the throne of God,  
pure from above;  
Come to the feast of love, come ever knowing;  
Earth has no sorrow that heav’n

can’t remove.”

*Disconsolance* can see one’s hands at the cross holding the nails and driving the hammer to propel them into Christ’s hands. *Disconsolance* hears Jesus’ screams as the spikes are thrust into His feet once more and the old sin is repeated. *Disconsolance* recognizes that as we brutalize Christ with “the sin that doth so easily beset us,” we brutalize ourselves as well. (Hebrews 12:1-2) *Disconsolance* requires that we as Christians repent and pray when we fall back into sin. (Acts 8) *Disconsolance* to non-believers requires hearing, belief, repentance from a life that once enjoyed sin, confession of Jesus as Lord and baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Then and only then can the Spirit release us from a world of unhappy consciences and welcome us into the truly abundant life. (John 10:10)

“Come Ye Disconsolate!”

By: Sid Womack, elder  
Dover Church of Christ  
Dover, Arkansas

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**Grant Finlayson is on Facebook. He would love hearing from you, please contact him.**

GF

## Lines for Ladies

*By Pat McAlister*

God's goodness has been from the beginning, when He created this magnificent earth, to the present time. His presence can be seen every day as we look upon the things around us. We feel His presence as we pray each day. No matter what befalls us, He is still in control.

*"Remember the former things,  
those of long ago;  
I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me.  
I made known the end from the beginning,  
From ancient times, what is still to come."* (Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV)

God told Isaiah to tell this rebellious nation that He is God, and there is no other. He is their God and there is none like Him. These people were worshipping idols. They had left the One who created their world.

These verses remind me of a song we sing, *God Is So Good*:

God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He's so good to me.  
He answers prayers, He answers prayers,  
He's so good to me.  
I love Him so, I love Him so, I love Him so,  
He's so good to me.

Have we forgotten the former things, those of long ago? Do we get carried away with our everyday lives and forget our Maker? We have forgotten, if we are not doing His will. We are rebellious people if we aren't attending worship, helping the needy, praying, reading the Bible or being a good example for others.

Good is easy for God because He is goodness. Jesus is goodness because He had no sin. He is goodness because He died for sinners.

Being humans, it is harder for us. Goodness comes with lots of prayers and forgiveness. We fail often, we fail miserably, but we have forgiveness if we remain faithful. We were created for a purpose. God wants us in His kingdom.

God is so good. We are saved through His grace, not by what we do. His grace is a gift to us. (Ephesians 2:8)

## Remember Our Sick

**Bob Bennett** – in St. Mary's skilled care.

**Nancy Cummings** – health issues.

**Frank Colvin** – came home Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your prayers and sending cards. Please continue doing both.

**Lynn Dils** – Intensive care, St. Mary's, Mother of Chuck Dils.

**Roger Lay** – diagnosed with cancer.

**Jim Lackey** – cancer, chose not to have any more treatments.

**Janette Litch** – radiation treatments.

**Jeff Myers** – epidural scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd.

**Carolyn Statler** – Jamie Statler's mother, in rehab.

**Earl Whitted** – surgery schedule for October 7th.

**Jim Wisbrock** – shingles of the throat.

### 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, James/Shirley Chadwick, 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, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary & Doreen Shinn, Reddie 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.

## The Struggles of a Christian

Hillsboro Family Newsletter

A little boy decided to go on a nature hike. While hiking he found a cocoon suspended from a small tree branch. He had heard that beautiful gorgeous butterflies come out of these ugly little packages. He quickly broke off the small section of tree branch and took it home to watch. He watched it for several days as it changed shape and size. Finally, shortly before the butterfly was due to make its way out of the cocoon; the little boy observed that the tiny insect was having difficulty making its way out of the side of its little prison. It was beating its small fragile wings inside of the cocoon as it struggled valiantly to get out. The boy, being caring and compassionate, reached out and tore the hole wider to help the butterfly out. However, when he did this, even though the butterfly crawled right out, it soon died. He didn't know that in order for a butterfly's wings to grow strong enough to support itself, it has to struggle against the walls inside the cocoon. It's a strange thing, but when you deny the butterfly its struggles, you take away its only chance of survival.

As human beings we think of this world as all there is. We get so caught up in our living of this life that we have a tendency to forget the next one. Even as Christians, we'll talk about heaven and eternity with Jesus, yet, when it comes down to it, we'll usually fight hand and foot to hold onto this life. We are so involved with the here and now that we forget that, spiritually speaking we are just living in a cocoon. We struggle with what all life brings our way and often cry out against the struggle or seem to resent it. Do we realize that this life is the cocoon while eternity is the real living? We are going through these struggles, we are going through our losses and the whole time we think God should make things easier on us, that we should have a better life. If we would listen to God through His Word, we would see that what we are going through right now is not really living. He is PREPARING us for life. When this so-called life is over THEN we can fly! THEN we can live; THEN we can TRULY be free!

What happens to a Christian when you take away his struggles? You take away one of the most important things that a Christian has. Good things come out of our struggles. Eternal life comes out of them if we are doing our best to overcome rather than to be overcome.

*By John Fields*

*Sent in by Mary Stamps, Dover, Arkansas*

## 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

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Dover Lawn Care  
Saturday,  
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Boatright  
Marion Helton

Dover Youth In Home  
Devotional  
Sunday, October 4th,  
Following Evening Services  
Lee and Andrea Henson

Dover Men's Devo  
October 8th  
Thursday, 7 PM  
Host: Donny Forehand

## Mark Your Calendars

Dover Ladies Night  
3rd Thursday  
October 15, 7 PM  
Hostess: Charlene Clark  
Dover Church of Christ  
Fellowship Hall

Dover Church of Christ  
Fall Festival  
  
October 24th  
Saturday, 5 PM  
Camp Caudle

See Amanda Besterfeldt  
for details

GIFTS & GUARDS  
Dover Church of Christ

Will Meet  
First Sunday,  
October 4th, 4 PM  
and  
Third Sunday  
October 18th, 4 PM

DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME ENDS  
Sunday, November 1st.

## October Birthdays

01 Rose Lee  
Shannon Nicole  
09 Jason Clark  
12 Susie Boley  
13 Kelley Chance  
Cyndie Loper  
14 Janie McQueen  
15 Heath Forehand  
16 Bonnie Vinson  
19 Robert Lee  
22 Kelsi Hottinger  
Emma Letson  
23 Blake Walters  
27 Carin Vaughn

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

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

The Search Program  
can now be accessed  
any time on website:  
[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

Mack Lyon's Weekly  
Lesson can be heard  
and seen on  
KARK, Channel 4  
Sunday, 7:30 AM

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# THOSE TO SERVE

*October 04, 2009*

## Sunday A.M.

**Announcer:** Randall Walters  
**Song Leader:** Merrell Shoptaw

### Prayers

Jim Killer  
Gary Williams

### Communion

**Podium:** Chris Loper  
**Serve:** Blake Walters  
Brent Hottinger  
Brett Walters  
Chris Besterfeldt

### Scripture Reading

Rex McDaniel

## Sunday P.M. Prayers

Earl Whitted  
Earl Stamps

# SPEAKER

## Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

## Sunday P.M.

“Singing Night”

### Prepare Table for Communion

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

### Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer

### Greeters

The Elders

### Wednesday Night Devotional

**October 07, 2009**

Lee Henson

### 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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