



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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The Abundant Life

By Merrell Shoptaw
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

"I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Last week I had the opportunity to do one of my least favorite things: pay my property taxes! Even though I know that this is coming every October, somehow when it arrives it manages to give me a few moments of pause and irritation that I'm expected to pay the government for stuff that I already own! And yet . . . when I calm down a little, I realize that the only reason I'm paying is because the Lord blessed me with things that I don't deserve anyway. And the more taxes I owe can only mean that I've been blessed more!

Jesus said that He came to give us life abundantly. That word is Latin and really means something like a wave in the sea overflowing. In other words the abundant life is one that overflows and is luxurious and exuberant. Oh, you've heard the critics say Christians' lives on earth are not worth much because they have hopes all set on heaven, but Jesus says that we will have something here and now as well! Check out Matthew 19:29, ***"And anyone who gives up his home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or property, to follow Me, shall receive a hundred times as much in return, and shall have eternal life."*** A hundred times would be 10,000% interest! How many banks that you know of give that kind of return?

Abundance is a Quality of Life. Jesus didn't promise an abundance of things. He did promise an abundant life. Well, what does that consist of? Someone might say that your spouse is the secret to an abundant life. More than likely, no other person will be more influential to you on whether you make it to heaven than your spouse . . . but your mate alone doesn't make life abundant. Some might say that it's your children, some might say that being free from pain and disease constitutes abundance. And most of us who've lived a

while know that children and health are blessings beyond expression. Obviously, and particularly in America, we say that the abundant life means having lots of things. We attach a lot of value to the things that we have been able to acquire during our lives . . . our homes, our cars, properties. The trick, however, is this: We can have all these and many other blessings and have a miserable life; we can also have none of these blessings and have an abundant life!

Maybe we can identify four traits of a truly abundant life that are consistent for everyone: And they all start with the letter "F" The first one is a Father. I was blessed tremendously in my life by having a wonderful father on earth. Most of you knew him very well, and his life touched yours in many ways. He was always there to support me when I needed him, even when I stumbled badly. I can't imagine what it would have been like to not have him always there at my back. Guess what . . . I also have a Father in heaven that is even more supportive of me than my physical Dad. My heavenly Father is with me night and day, wherever I am, whatever I find myself in . . . and He never, ever leaves me.

The second "F" is Family. Even though we may not be blessed with a strong group of physical relatives, if we are Christians, we have a worldwide family that will not disown us because as long as we love God, the family loves us. I truly can't understand how some folks get along without the church family. Roxanna and I have talked about this often: We would really be lost and lonely without all of you. Everyone needs a family, and I guarantee that it will be encouraging to you at some point to know that you are a part of God's family. Just to know that people encourage you and pray for you and really care about you is more precious than gold!

The third "F" is Forgiveness. We all have bad memories floating around in our minds about things we've done or said in the past that were wrong, and we wish we didn't have them, but we do. The good news of the gospel of

Christ is that we can be forgiven. The Bible is full of stories of people who did things a lot worse than we have, and yet, they were all forgiven by God. In the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew it lists the names of only four women: Bathsheba, Tamar, Rehab and Ruth. All of them were public sinners, and yet, all of them were wondrously forgiven that they were listed as ancestors of the Christ! How about David? He was a murderer, an adulterer, a liar and who knows what else, and God said that he will be there in heaven.

The fourth "F" is Future. My life is abundant because Jesus has given me a future that is endless! Lots of people right now are despairing because of economic downturns which leaves them worrying about their future wealth. Some people are worrying about physical issues like cancer, heart attacks, swine flu, whatever that threatens their lives. Lou Gehrig, the famous baseball player, was dying at 36 years of age when he stood in Yankee Stadium and said, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth." The good news of Jesus is that we have a future that is forever. It will be free from pain and trouble and worry and the stench of this earth because it will be with God! I don't have a death wish because I think it's my job as God's child to live as long as He needs me to do whatever good I can. But I know whenever my time here is up, my future is secure because of God's grace.

Jesus said He wants us to have an abundant life while we're here on earth. He said that He will give us a Father who won't leave us, a life with a family of fellow Christians, complete forgiveness of all our sins, and an everlasting future in heaven with Him. We can have all this if we only believe in Jesus!

The thought of all this sure helps me stop agonizing over having to pay taxes to enjoy His blessings!

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her,’”
(Luke 10:38-42 NKJV)

How would you have handled this situation? I’ve thought about this story many times. I would have been Martha, busy with things that were not so important. However, I would have handled it differently than Martha. I would not have asked Jesus to make Mary help me! Most likely, I would try to get Mary’s attention by giving her an evil look. Or, I would have banged some pots and pans, whatever was available at that time. I could have dirtied all the dishes and left them for Mary to clean.

I don’t think Luke told this story to downplay the importance of cooking and preparing meals. They got hungry, and they had to eat. I think he told it to make sure we don’t get carried away with things that don’t matter and leave the important things undone.

Martha would have many more meals to prepare. Mary was listening to Jesus, who would not be with them much longer. She was hearing the good things, something that she could talk about for years.

Martha worried and seemed a little selfish, but she was hospitable. I’m sure she could have finished the meal without asking Jesus for help. Later, she could ask Mary all about what Jesus had told them.

As Jesus told Martha; “. . . *Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*”

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett – home, needs our prayers.

Melvin Davis – chemo treatments again.

Catherine Gaines – Center Valley P.E. teacher, having aorta surgery Nov. 9th.

Robin King – brother of Karen Womack, rare disease, Bartanella.

Rose Lee – thyroid surgery, good report. Will have eye surgery Nov. 11th.

Janette Litch – battling cancer.

Carla Mitchell – sister of Diane M. Walters, diagnosed with cervical cancer. Surgery Nov. 11th.

Gerald Simoneaux – Sonia Williams’ father, critically ill. Not responding, moved to an extended-care facility.

Janice Waldo – sister to Rachel Curtis, had a light stroke.

Earl Whitted – surgery Fri., Nov. 13th.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Evelyn Burton

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin

Helen Brown

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, Frankie Colvin, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, David/Mary Franke, Larry/Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Jim Lackey, Mario Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Jeff Myers, 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.

What a Difference a Day makes

In the year 1815, Napoleon gathered his French forces at Waterloo to battle against the Duke of Wellington. Of course, history informs us that Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo, but how did the people living in 1815 learn of the news?

To carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo to England, an English ship signaled to a man on shore, who then relayed the word to a man on a hill, and so on across England. The first word that was signaled was “Wellington.” The next word that was signaled was “defeated.” Then a fog rolled in, and the message stopped.

As you can image, all across England people wept and were disheartened by the two-word message, “Wellington defeated.”

But when the fog lifted, the message continued with two additional words, “the enemy.” Hope arose out of despair!

Now here’s my point. What do you think the world and even the disciples of Jesus thought when they saw the events that transpired on the Friday of the crucifixion? But Friday contained only a portion of the message. The rest of the message was shared on Sunday through an empty tomb.

Hope arose out of despair!

“He is not here: for he is risen.”
(Matthew 28:6)

*From House to House
Heart to Heart*

Prayers and Sympathy to the family and friends of **Lynn Dils** who passed away Tuesday, October 27th, in Little Rock. She was a resident of Russellville.

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,
November 21st
Gary Williams
Jamie Churchill

GIFTS & GUARDS
Dover Church of Christ
Will Meet Sunday
November 15th, 4PM

Dover Men's Devo
Please Note:
The November 12th,
Meeting has been
Cancelled.

Dover Ladies Night,
Thursday, Nov. 19th, 7 PM
Hostess: Diane M. Walters

Mark Your Calendars

Angel Tree Shopping
(Children)
Friday, November 20th
See Leigh Anne Forehand
for more information.

5th Sunday
November 29th

Evening Service
by our Young Men
(No Potluck)

Annual 2009

Christmas Party

Saturday
December 5th, 6:00 PM
At the Veasman's
Adults Only

Will Play The Santa
Game
More details to follow!

"In Search of the
Lord's Way"

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

November Birthdays

06 Roxanna Shoptaw
07 Charlene Clark
09 Kim Walters
10 Andy Jackson
14 Daniel Loper
15 Adam Pointer
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Michael Williams
18 Kevin Miller
20 Marion Helton
21 Carla Oakes
29 Taylor Thomas
30 Amanda McCain

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

Mt. George
Church of Christ

Invites you to attend
Their meetings on -

Nov. 13th & 14th, 7PM
Nov. 15th,
10:00 AM
11:00 AM

**Celebrated Youth
& Event Speaker:
Craig Hicks**

Junction 154/Hwy 28

THOSE TO SERVE

November 15, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Gary Williams

Earl Whitted

Communion

Podium: Jim Killer

Serve: Chris Besterfeldt

Chris Loper

Chris Moss

Donny Forehand

Scripture Reading

Earl Stamps

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Earl Stamps

Donny Forehand

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Eddie Cloer

Prepare Table for Communion

Donny and Leigh Anne

Forehand

Communion to Shut-Ins

Blake Forehand

Greeters

Marion & Joyce Helton

Wednesday Night Devotional

November 18, 2009

Tommy Oakes

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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