



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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January 15th, 2017

IN DEFENSE OF THE BIBLE AS BEING THE WORD OF GOD

Regardless of what code of conduct (or morality) you accept -- one point that cannot be denied is that throughout history we have illustration after illustration of man mistreating his fellow man. That conduct might be as extreme as torture and murder, or as simple as lying, cheating, and stealing. In contrast, the two greatest commands given by God are to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love your neighbor as you love yourself. These commands are included in both the Old and New testaments.

If we believe there is life after death and there is some kind of eternal reward, then our greatest need is to receive forgiveness for our immoral conduct. Of course, if there is no God and no heaven, this discussion is moot. However, there is

great risk to accept that thesis in case we would be wrong.

The one consistent theme throughout the Bible is the theme of forgiveness. From the first book of the Bible (Genesis) to the last (Revelation), the constant theme in the 66 books written by at least 40 authors, over several hundred years, is forgiveness. In fact, if we were to give the Bible a title, it might be "Forgiveness – Why, How, and When We Receive It."

First and foremost, we do not receive forgiveness because we obey more often than we disobey. God does not forgive based on our being more good than bad. Contrary to most religions and most people, God judges on the basis of law, and not on a basis of bonus points. We live in a world system that is based on law. Without laws and rules there would be chaos. What if you were arrested for running a red light and your defense was, "I have stopped a thousand times at red lights, so shouldn't I get credit for doing right those times against this one

infraction?" You know what the answer would be!

One of the main points of the Bible is to convince us that we are law-breakers and cannot save ourselves from the penalty for disobedience by simply making the right decision most of the time. Disobedience under any system or law or morality leads to a penalty. The Bible teaches us that we are all disobedient sinners who cannot by our own efforts save ourselves from the penalty of disobedience. How then can we receive forgiveness without suffering the penalty for our sins of disobedience? The answer to that question is the story of the Bible.

The answer is simple. God gives us forgiveness through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. We owed a debt we could not pay without being separated from God for all eternity. Jesus paid the debt he did not owe, since he never sinned (Heb. 4:15). That sounds unbelievable, but, that is the story of the

(continued on p.2, column 3)

Lines for Ladies by Patty McAlister

George Washington is reported to have said, "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."

In like manner, Paul gives us the same warning. "**Do not be deceived; Bad company corrupts good character.**" (1 Corinthians 15:33) It's something like the adage, "if you lie with dogs, you'll get fleas."

We should learn this at an early age. Our character will be formed by the company we keep. If we are around evil, sinful people, it will rub off on us. We start the same habits and before long that is our character. It is much easier to ruin a reputation than it is to recover one. The mistakes we make may last a lifetime.

Will Rogers once said, "You never get a second chance to make a good first impression." That first impression only happens once. When you ruin that, your chances are gone.

Most of us like to make good first impressions. First impressions can determine whether someone likes us or not. It may determine whether they trust us or not. It can make a difference in us getting a job, buying a home, or having a lasting friendship. First impressions are hard to erase, so make a good one at the start.

A bad character can be devastating, but it can be corrected. We can be forgiven. We can repent and correct our bad flaws. It doesn't have to be hopeless.

Many times we aren't sure what to change. We don't really see ourselves as others see us. There is a turn in the road; but we don't know which one to take.

However, we do know which company to keep. We can know the difference in good and bad company by their actions, not necessarily by what they say. Paul tells us to steer away from those who would corrupt good character.

Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

Charles Ensey – in ICU at St. Mary's in serious condition

Patsy Wisbrock – foot healing nicely – much encouraged

Jay Winters – additional surgery to remove tumor on 12/30-home now-will start chemo and radiation therapy again soon

Shirley Miller – (Jerry Turner's sister) – back at home and feeling much better

Anna Moore – will have additional throat surgery on 1/10/17 @ACH

Eugene Davis – feeling some better

Joan Hudson – no definite diagnosis yet - will have more tests 1/5/17

Melinda Robbins – taking oral meds and will go back to Houston soon for more treatment – doing better

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Legacy Heights:

Bonnie Vinson – Room #34

Juanita Whitted – Room #62

Russellville Nsg & Rehab:

Joe Miller –Room #317

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Carl Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Nubbin Boley, Jesse/Jennie Branch, Donna Chambers, Chris Chance, Jamie Churchill, Rachel Curtis, Randy Ellis, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Rose Lee, Letson family, Daniel Loper, Jan Loveless, Jeff/Connie Myers, Becky Miller, Julie Moss, Glen/Paulette Oakes, Aris Ortiz, Jr, Jackson Pierce, Cathy Pittman, Jerry Pruitt, Mike Rinke, Pat Robertson, KaLee Robbins, Bob Sims, Greg Standridge, Michael Tindall, Joan/Jon Vance, Joey Vaughn, Justin Vaughn, & Joyce Walters.

Military: Pray for our service men and women:

Eric Richardson

D J Bandy

Expecting Mothers:

Emma Walters

*In Defense of the
Bible...*

(cont. from page 1)

Bible. God's love for his creation may be difficult to grasp, but that is the depth of God's love. Such love should motivate us to live our lives as God directs in appreciation and gratitude for our forgiveness that comes through the gift of his Son's death on the cross. The Bible calls this "grace," which means it is a gift which cannot be earned or merited (Eph. 2:8).

By: Garth Winston Black
Does God Exist?
May/June 2016

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS

Our friend and brother, Troy Curtis, passed away on December 29th, 2016 at St. Mary's RMC.

Our hearts go out to Rachel, Sandra, and Alan and all of their family and to our church family and even our community in the loss of this fine man.

The countless hours Troy spent in his retirement years working to build Camp Caudle Christian Youth Camp are still reaping rewards today in children and adults alike.

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them." Luke 12:37

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ladies' Devo for the month of January will be on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30pm in the fellowship building. This is our planning meeting for our annual Ladies' Day, which will be Saturday, April 29, 2017. Please be there to help with important decisions about this event.

Our annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet will be held on Sunday, January 29 after evening services. If you would like to help with this please see Donny Forehand.

*Trivia question:
Which of the four gospels is longest in length, based on the number of words?*

AREA EVENTS

Sanctity of Human Life
is Sunday
January 15, 2017

39th Annual March for Life
is Sunday, January 22,
2017
at 2:00 pm at the
State Capitol.

Please pray for these
events that life may be
glorified rather than
abortion.

BIBLE BOWL STUDY
Lad to Leaders/Leaderettes
study of Ruth, Job and
Esther will begin on Sun.
1/8/17 at 4:00 pm. Study will
continue until testing time.
Students and sponsors will
leave on 4/13 after school for
the convention which will be
held on April 14-16, 2017.

January Birthdays

01 Billy Walters
02 Marilyn Veasman
Bailey Jackson
Rileigh Corbin
06 Shelby Bell
07 Chris Moss
09 Micah Williams
15 Chris Besterfeldt
Amie Barkley
18 Ed Meadows
20 Teresa Parker
Patsy Wisbrock
21 Bennie Lou Meadows
23 Mary Stamps
28 Mary Ann Cloud
30 Melissa McMillian
Shawn Price

Dover Church of Christ
Children's Church
Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Stories and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class
if needed

THOSE TO SERVE

January 15th, 2017

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Rick Hollis
Sid Womack

Communion

Podium: Donny Forehand
Serve: Marion Helton
Matthew Moss
Michael Robbins
Presley Williams

Scripture Reading

Chris Loper

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

William Boley
Alan Boatright

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Lads & Leaderettes

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman

Greeters

The Elders

Next Business Meeting

February 13th, 2017

Wednesday Night Services

@

6:30 p.m.

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

Office Hours: M-F 8:30a-12:30p

Or Micah Cell: 479-264-9244

Or Secretary Cell: 479-264-6052

Elders:

William Boley 264-1335
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367
Chris Loper 331-3313

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss
Michael Robbins

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