



# Life Lines

**Dover Church of Christ**  
**Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299**  
Web site: [www.dovercoc.org](http://www.dovercoc.org)

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January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

## THE DANGER OF STOPPING SHORT

A young man was helping his dad build a wood fence. The teenager's job was to cut pieces to serve as spacers between the boards. His dad told him to cut an 8' 2x4 into 4" sections and he needed about 200 of them. His dad told him to cut the initial 4" section and then use it to serve as the pattern for each of the other 199 sections.

But, just to save a little time and because he was a little lazy at the idea, the teenager used block #2 to serve as the pattern for block #3 and then used the third block to measure and cut block #4 and so on. Do you know what happened? Because he wasn't using the original 4" block, each block after that was actually a smidgeon longer, at least the width of the pencil lead.

So after about fifty blocks, the pieces had grown to about 4 ¼" and then 4 ½" and then up to 4 ¾". Eventually, the dad took a step back from his work and noticed that the fence was not even! He got a little perturbed at the son for not following the pattern, the original. "ALWAYS go back to the original," he told his now-educated son. "If you don't, you'll slowly go off."

If we want authentic Christianity, then we need to get back to Jesus Himself, the real Jesus, the authentic Jesus. We must let Jesus reveal Himself to us as He is and not turn Him into something that He is not, something that we might want Him to be rather than Who He is. Of course, to turn Jesus into somebody He is not and then worship and serve the figment of our imagination is idolatry.

So, how do we return to the authentic Jesus?

1. Let Jesus reveal Himself through the Gospel message. When John opens his Gospel account, he begins with these words: "The darkness did not comprehend" the light (1:5). Drop down to verse 11: "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

Why did the Jews, Jesus' own people, not receive Him? Because He did not meet their expectations. Why did the Pharisees reject Jesus' miracles? Because He was not who they wanted Him to be. Why did the apostles, after Jesus was crucified, go back to fishing? Because the death of their friend was not expected and they did not anticipate a resurrection. In short, Jesus was not who they thought he was, in a real sense.

We absolutely must allow Jesus to be Who He is. We've got to accept Him for Who He is and love Him for Who He is and follow Him for Who He is. Isn't that how you and I want to be treated by our family and friends?

2. Listen to Jesus' message through His specially-guided followers. Jesus chose twelve men on whom to send the Holy Spirit to guide them to teach exactly what Jesus wants us to know in order to follow Him (Matthew 10:16-20).

For people who need to be built up spiritually, I frequently say, "Read one of the Gospel accounts. Just read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John." But you will not, you cannot, get the entire story if you only read about the life of Jesus. Jesus Himself told us that His disciples, His apostles, were guided by the Holy Spirit and we are to listen to them too. So, authentic Christianity, Christianity that is centered on Jesus Christ is going to take seriously the book of Acts and all the letters that were written by Jesus' apostles from Romans through Revelation.

(continued on p. 2 column 3)

## Lines for Ladies by Patty McAlister

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened"* (Matt. 7:7,8) NASB

Ask, seek, and knock. Commentaries tell us the Greek present imperatives are used here, indicating constant asking, seeking, and knocking. Persistent prayer is being emphasized. The New Testament was first written in Greek, the common language at that time. In our English language, constant means uninterrupted, whereas continual means intermittent. So, in the language in which it was written, ask, seek, and knock means we can or should pray over and over to the Lord our God! This is a blessing for us because we find ourselves doing this all the time.

Often we think God must be so tired of hearing our same prayer over and over, day after day. But I guess that's not so. He does hear our prayers, and He does answer, but not necessarily when or what we are praying for. Many of our prayers are for those who are lost, family or friends. Our influence hasn't seemed to make a difference, therefore we pray over and over for them. And we shouldn't stop.

Our prayers should not be selfish. We shouldn't pray for a fancy, new car, but we can pray for a car that's good enough to get us where we need to go. God says He will furnish our needs, and an all-knowing God knows our needs!

*"Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear"* (Isa. 65:24).

Our prayers should be according to God's will, and they should always be thankful, they should be humble, and we must believe.

God answers prayers using His wisdom, not ours. He has the whole picture, where we see just what is in front of us, or what is in the past. Later, when we finally see the outcome, we are thankful God did as He did and not as we asked.

*"The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous"* (Prov. 15:29).

## Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

**Nubbin Boley** – in hospital at this time, needs our prayers

**Charles Ensey** – back at home, still not feeling well

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

**Anna Moore** – at home and doing well

**Joan Hudson** – doing better, no test results yet

**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, Jesse/Jennie Branch, Donna Chambers, Chris Chance, Jamie Churchill, Rachel Curtis, Eugene Davis, Randy Ellis, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Rose Lee, Letson family, Daniel Loper, Jan Loveless, Jeff/Connie Myers, Becky Miller, Shirley 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 & Patsy Wisbrock.

### Military: Pray for our service men and women:

Eric Richardson

D J Bandy

### Expecting Mothers:

Emma Walters

## The Danger of Stopping Short

By: Paul Holland

**3. Enforce the laws Jesus has set down** (Luke 13:22-30). The point I want to draw to your attention is that word 'evildoers,' the word that is used here in place of 'lawlessness' in other contexts. To be an 'evil doer' is to do something that is without Christ's permission. Authentic Christianity is Christianity that enforces the laws that Christ lays down. To do things in the name of Christianity that is without His permission is to be an evildoer. So, in seeking to enforce the laws of Christ, we are particularly interested in what did Christ command of Christians in the first century that is a part of His pattern for Christianity?

**4. Do not make laws where Jesus has not made them** (Mark 7:1-13). Jesus clearly teaches here that only He has the right, the authority, to design Christianity, making rules, regulations, and laws. If we want to have authentic Christianity, we do not need to make laws where Christ has not made them. That is the real Jesus - the one with all authority.

It is time to return to the real, authentic Jesus.

Your fellow-servant in Christ,  
*Paul Holland*  
Swartz Creek church of Christ,  
Swartz Creek, MI

## Sympathy and Prayers

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Champagne Killer, a Dover High School sophomore, who passed away last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Ladies' Devo for the month of January will be on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 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:  
What epistle closes with the words: "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in

Sincerity. Amen"?

A. Ephesians

B. Galatians

C. Philippians

D. 2 Thessalonians

Last week's answer: Luke

## AREA EVENTS

39<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please bring Vienna sausages and peanut butter crackers for the RussBus ministry.

## 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 22nd, 2017***

## **Sunday A.M.**

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

### **Prayers**

Allen Veasman  
Blake Walters

### **Communion**

**Podium:** Donny Forehand  
**Serve:** Rex McDaniel  
Rick Hollis  
Shawn Price  
Sid Womack

### **Scripture Reading**

Charles Davis

## **Sunday P.M.**

### **Prayers**

Brent Hottinger  
Brett Walters

# **SPEAKER**

## **Sunday A.M.**

Micah Williams

## **Sunday P.M.**

Micah Williams

### **Prepare Table for Communion**

Lads & Leaderettes

### **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Marion Helton

### **Greeters**

The Elders

### **Next Business Meeting**

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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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