



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
Web site: www.dovercoc.org

Volume 20 Number 44

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

August 31, 2008

What Does God's Grace Teach Us?

The apostle Paul wrote, *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."* (Titus 2:11-12)

It is within these two verses that Paul gives us at least four things that God's grace teaches us to do.

The first thing we learn is that we should deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts." In other words, we should say, "no" to these things. Those who are ungodly lack piety and reverence toward God, and we might add a lack of reverence toward the things of God.

The Christian who truly loves God will not and must not act in such a manner. Ungodliness quickly puts one on the path headed for hell.

Worldly lusts also must be denied; that is, those desires that are connected with an evil, immoral world. The world is seemingly under Satan's control. *"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."* (I John 5:19) *"... the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not from the Father, but from the world."* (I John 2:16) Christians are to be different from the world. *"Therefore, I urge you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by renewing of your mind,*

so that the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

(Romans 12:1-2)

When we find ourselves caught up in ungodly and worldly things, we lose our distinction as God's people.

God's grace teaches Christians to be different.

Secondly, as a child of God, we learn we are to live "soberly." This simply means we should live sensibly, practice self-control, and have a sound mind. This is a word that speaks to our need to pay attention to ourselves. To live soberly is to learn how to live godly and be in control of our passions and desires. One who is drunk loses control of his thoughts, ability to reason properly and function normally. It is not until the alcohol has worn off that the drunk is able to think, reason and function normally again.

Likewise, when a Christian fails to exercise self-control, they are not functioning in a proper Christ-like manner. It is not until a change is made (repentance) that they once again function as a faithful Christian.

The third thing God's grace teaches us is that we are to live "righteously."

Living righteously is living upright. It is treating others in a right manner.

The word used here, "righteously," means "doing what is right in our duties to our fellow-man." Those who live righteously are striving to do the right thing, especially toward others.

Living righteously assures us that we are living a "God-approved" life – one that has the stamp of God's approval.

Last, God's grace teaches us to live "godly."

As Christians we are to live a life devoted to God.

We are to faithfully perform our duties to God. A godly life is lived in reverence and loving obedience to God.

One author stated, "Those living godly lives must maintain a reverent awareness that the Lord is always present, and there must be a healthy respect for the holiness of the Lord and His truth. To live godly is to discharge our duties to God."

As long as a Christian lives, he/she has duties and responsibilities to ourselves, others, and to God.

Let us strive each day of our lives to live faithfully and fulfill our responsibilities as Christians.

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

Andy Heavin
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Prayers and Sympathy

For the family of **Cooper Chance**, infant son of B. J. and Kelley Chance and little brother of Connor, who passed away Friday, August 15, 2008. Memorial service was Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Our hearts go out to the many close friends and relatives of this family.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Middle – Aged Lament:

My bifocals are adequate.

My dentures are fine.

My uplift is holding.

But I sure miss my mind!

Do you ever go into a room, stop, wonder why you are there? Why did I come in here? Most of us have done this. Or try to think of someone's name, go through the whole alphabet, with no luck. As we grow older, this seems to happen more frequently. If we don't blame it on age, we blame it on stress.

Some of the more insignificant things escape our memory. Then why can we **always** remember those unkind things someone said or did to us? Do we tend to forget what we want to forget, and hang on to others?

The opposite of forget is to remember, recall or think back on. So, do we actually ever forget? Have you heard someone say, "I can forgive but I can't forget?" Is there a difference? Can we really pardon or excuse someone if we can't remove it from our mind?

What about God's forgiveness for us? ***"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember it no more."*** (Hebrews 8:12; Jeremiah 31:33) God says He will forgive and forget. Can we do the same? We must forgive others if we expect to be forgiven by our Father. ***"If you do not forgive their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*** (Matthew 6:15)

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett – Chemo treatments.

Hoyt Ensey – serious health issues.

Paul Griffin – Hospice

Garrett Hogan – age 7 months, Children's Hospital, brain damage.

Eddie Holloway – Surgery of August 12th successful, still in a lot of pain..

Jim Lackey – Houston Cancer Center for evaluation.

Gary Nicholson – serious health problems, having to undergo a series of shots. (Shirlie Chadwick's son.)

Rodney Pfeifer – surgery successful, Chemo and radiation treatments soon

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver

Melba Hodges

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Mae Vanzandt

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Wm/Susie Boley, Jamie/Mary Ann Churchill, Troy and Rachel Curtis, Eugene Cox, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Virginia Grant, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Cleon Johnson, Ruby Gene Johnson, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: Cole Wetzel, D.J. Bandy and Travis Coe.

Nathan Killer was restored Sunday, August 17, 2008.

Start Now, Keep Going, Never Quit

Recently, a lady of 102 years, who had been golfing since her twenties, made a hole in one on Bidwell Park Golf Course in Chico, California. Elsie McClain searched for the ball a bit before one of her friends found it in the bottom of the cup.

As we go through the stages of life, many things distract us from our goals. This is especially true in the Lord's service.

When we are young, we might think that we cannot make a difference – we will have to wait until we grow up. Sometimes this attitude is reinforced by dismissive adults. Paul had a different perspective when he wrote to young Timothy. ***"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."*** (I Timothy 4:12)

When we reach adulthood and start a career or a family, we may think ourselves too busy to serve God, considering all our other responsibilities. Jesus said, concerning those obligations, ***"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all things will be added to you."*** (Matthew 6:33)

When we get the kids raised or we retire, we, perhaps, get the notion that it is time to sit back and take our ease – despite the extra time available. The Lord reproves us, ***"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*** (Revelation 2:10)

At whatever stage of life you are – when it comes to Heaven's work – start now, keep going and never quit.

By: **Robb Hadley**

From: **Reflections**

The Seeker

Fayetteville, 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

Dover's Lawn Mowing
Schedule
Saturday, September 6th.
Allen Veasman/Jeff Myers

No Dover Men's Devo
Postponed UNTIL
Thursday,
October 9, 2008.

Dover Men's Monthly
Business Meeting
September 8, 7 PM

No Dover Church of Christ
In Home Youth Devo
For September!

Dover Ladies Night
September 18th, 7PM
Hostess: Charlene Clark

Mark Your Calendars

Area Wide Youth Devo
3rd Sunday,
September 21st,
5:30 PM
River Valley Church of
Christ
1005 Interstate Rd., Clarksville

2008 – 2009

Lads to Leaders

Leaderettes

Overall Theme:

*“... All that You command
us we will do,
and wherever You send us we
will go.”*

(Joshua 1:16)

Lads to Leaders

and Leaderettes

Will meet/: First & Third
Sundays, 4PM

Boys: GUARD (Guys
Understanding Authority and
Real Discipleship
Girls: GIFTS (Girls In
Fellowship and Team Study

5th Sunday
Celebration
August 31st
Dover Church of Christ
Following evening services
Fellowship Hall
POTLUCK

September Birthdays

02 Rhonda Creel
05 Leota Hickey
06 Deidre Luker
07 Ian Roberts
09 Joyce Helton
Connie Myers
16 Susan Straight
17 Danielle Stepanovich
Mellissa Williams
20 Jannie Myers
21 Dimitrois Tsigourlas
Michaela Walker
22 Nathan Killer
23 Rylie Boley
24 Wayne Strickland
Alan Walker
Gary Williams
25 Joshua Besterfeldt
26 Justin Vaughn
28 Yvonne Adkisson
Janie Beck
Donna Walters

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

WINGS

(Women In God's Service)

Thursdays, (Starting
September 25)

From 9 AM – 11:30 AM
WestSide Church of Christ
Study: "Conversation Peace –
The Power of Transformed
Speech"

By: Mary Kassian
(workbook/video study)