



Life Lines

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

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Of Snake Bites and Salvation

The entire message of the Bible is that of Christ. Throughout the Old Testament, we see allusions to the coming Savior, even in occurrences that seem completely un-related.

In Numbers 21, we find the Israelites in a state we find them in far too often: Discontent. At this point, they have been wandering likely around 38 years. In verse 5, they begin to complain, blaming God and Moses for bringing them "out of Egypt to die in the wilderness." They also complain that they have no food or water. Of course, they do have food. In Exodus 16, God gives them manna, bread from heaven, more than they could ever consume, so that they would never be hungry. But, the Israelites complain about that as well, calling it "worthless food."

So, as a refresher, here are just a few things God did for them up to this point:

1. He led them out of bondage in Egypt.

2. He gave them manna when they were hungry (Ex. 16).

3. He spared them by punishing them to wandering in the wilderness for an extended period of time when He could have struck them down for their lack of faith (Num. 13-14).

4. He just spared them from an attack by the king of Arad and some of the Canaanite people. Yet, the Israelites still lost their faith in God.

The Lord responds by sending a plague of fiery serpents into the Israelite camp. The bites of these snakes were lethal and many people died from this plague. But God's plan was not for this to be a punishment, but rather an opportunity for reconciliation. The people, because of this plague, realize their wrongdoing and they ask Moses to pray to God for mercy. God commands Moses to make a fiery, bronze serpent and set it on a pole, and if someone is bitten, they will look on this serpent and their life would be spared (v.8-9). And that's exactly what happened.

What does this have to do with Christ? In John 3, Jesus is trying to explain His role in the kingdom of God to a Jewish ruler by the name of Nicodemus. It is clear that Nicodemus is confused at His teachings, so Jesus uses an instance from the Law that Nicodemus was no doubt knowledgeable about. He says in verses 14-15, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." Jesus says, "Just as the serpent brought grace, mercy, and salvation to one nation, so I will bring grace, mercy, and salvation to all nations who believe in me." Why? Because God loves His people (John 3:16) and, though he could have destroyed the camp with snakes and could have sent His Son to the world to destroy it, he sent the snakes to reconcile us to Him, and He sent His Son to do the same (John 3:17).

In the time mentioned in Numbers 21, they could not have said, "I know God will save me if I just pray to Him. I don't need to look at the bronze serpent." That person would not be saved. Why? Because
(continued on p. 2 column 3)

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

As Christians we know the devil tempts us. He looks for ways to get us because he already has the unfaithful. Peter warned us that he is our adversary who walks around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (I Peter 5:8). We may not know from experience but we can imagine a roaring lion stalking us.

Why wouldn't the devil tempt us? He was brave enough to tempt Jesus Christ! He tried to tempt Christ at a low point. He will do the same to us. After attempting three times and failing to tempt Jesus, it says he didn't give up. "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him for a more opportune time" (Luke 4:13).

So, if he didn't give up on Christ, he will certainly not give up on us. If one temptation doesn't work, he will try another time or thing. If we're not devoted to a Christian life he finds his job easy. He can sit back and watch us destroy ourselves.

God does not tempt us. We are tempted by our own evil desires. Although He is in control, He allows us free choice. On the other hand, the devil does tempt us. He wouldn't allow free will if it were up to him. He is not our friend. He will be destroyed so he wants us to have the same fate. Friends are not like that. True friends want the best for us, just as God does.

God wants our love and obedience, from the heart. He could have made us robots, but He didn't. We wouldn't want a forced love either.

Don't let the devil fool you. Sin may look appealing, but it doesn't last. We must stay away from anything that appears evil, because it usually is!

Kevin Miller – in UAMS for tests - possible surgery

Bill Roderick - at Atkins Nursing and Rehab for recovery from hip replacement surgery

Leona Sayer – in rehab at Dardanelle hospital, will return to Rsvl Nsg & Rehab soon

Jason Leavell – still in Rehab @ Baptist Medical Center

Elliot Crouch - improving – please pray that a shunt will not be needed

Charlie Tindall- taking chemo w/radiation treatments, very weak

Ginger Garren – at home, some improvement

Yolanda Greenway- home, tests at UAMS on 11/25/15

Leonard Medlin – taking chemo treatments, still very weak

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Billie Nichols**

Legacy Heights:

Bonnie Vinson

Juanita Whitted

Russellville Nsg & Rehab:

Joe Miller

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Myra Ballenger, Amie Barkley, Juanita Bird, Nubbin Boley, Donna Chambers, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Dennis Drewry, Sarah Ensey, Johnny Estes, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Jonathan & Sheila Holland, Melba Horton, Braden Lambert, Ronnie Leavell, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Bea McDaniel, Linda McDaniel, Jeff/Connie Myers, Becky Miller, Julie Moss, Michael Tindall, Joan/Jon Vance, Justin Vaughn, Joyce Walters, Meredith Whitted, Greg Widner and Patsy Wisbrock.

Military: Pray for our service men and women

Expectant Mothers:

Beckie Clark

Of Snake Bites and Salvation

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they did not do what the Lord commanded them to do. Today, God tells us to have faith. Have faith that Jesus is the son of God, but an obedient faith, not an idle faith. We are told to confess His name as well as repent of our sins and be baptized for the remission of sins, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). It's not a matter of "working our way into Heaven." It's a matter of doing what God commanded us to do.

So, how do you heal a snake bite? By looking to the bronze serpent. How do you heal a life broken by sin? By looking to Jesus, who was lifted up because of our transgressions, and by being baptized into His name for the remission of our sins. It is the only way, and it is God's gift to us.

~ Jared McLeod, Youth and Family Minister at the Swartz Creek Church of Christ, Swartz Creek, Michigan

We would like to offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to

the many friends and family of

Jon Clark and Joyce Churchill

who passed away on November 18th.

EVENTS

A Busy Week Ahead!

The next Ladies' Devo will be the annual Christmas party on December 3rd @ 6pm in the fellowship hall.

Remember to bring a gift for the gift exchange and both new and used items for our annual donation to the River Valley Shelter for Battered Women and Children.

WEDDING

For

Drew Walters

and

Lacey George

on

Saturday, December 5th

@ 2:00 pm

in the large pavilion

at Mt. Nebo

State Park Everyone is invited!

The Annual Adult Christmas Party will be held on Saturday evening, December 5th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Remember to bring a gift for the dirty Santa game and your favorite potluck dish. For more info see Mary Stamps, Julie, Cyndie, Patty, or Sandra.

Mark Your Calendars

Save the Date!

Our children's Christmas Party/Food Basket delivery is being planned for Saturday, December 19th. More info coming!

Save this date, too!

Our first chance to see and hear Alaynna in the Harding University Chorus! A performance at the Westside Church of Christ on Saturday, January 2, 2016.



Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
Eph. 6: 10-12

December Birthdays

- 01 LeighAnne Forehand
Rhonda Horton
Libby Widner
- 06 Presley Williams
- 10 Paige Davis
- 13 Rhonda Lambert
- 14 Presten Nordin
- 16 Billie Nichols
- 21 Jamie Churchill
Doreen Shinn
- 22 Alaynna Williams
- 23 Jamie Statler
- 24 Cara Williams
- 25 Amanda Besterfeldt
- 26 Rachael Robinson
Addie Stamps
Sonia Williams
- 27 Jeanne Mahan
Jessica Walters
- 28 Kinsleigh Collins
- 31 Sierra Murphy

In Search of the Lord's Way

The Search Program can now be accessed anytime on their website @

www.searchtv.org

Phil Sanders weekly lesson can be heard and seen on LR KASN TV 38 Sunday @ 7:30 am

THOSE TO SERVE

December 6th, 2015

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Donny Forehand
Earl Stamps

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted
Serve: Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis
Shawn Price
Sid Womack

Scripture Reading

Brett Walters

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Gary Williams
Marion Helton

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Lads & Leaderettes

Communion to Shut-Ins

Charles Davis

Greeters

The Elders

Next Business Meeting

December 14th, 2015

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

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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