



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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The Two Sides of Providence



The evidence of the providence of God abounds.

It might seem strange to learn that the word providence occurs only one time in the Bible, and there it is not referring to the providence of God (Acts 24:2). In fact, this word is not found in most translations. Yet, the truth is that the concept of God's providence is found throughout the Scriptures. One cannot read the Bible without knowing that God provides.

There are questions about His providence He has chosen to not reveal to us. We should be content to speak where the Bible speaks but also must remember to stop where the Bible stops. Moses'

words say so much about this. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). There is no way we can know that our idle speculations are what God thinks and we must learn to be silent.

Providence Seen By Looking Backward

Because we know that every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17), it is not wrong for us to look at the past and see the hand of God in our lives. Young David found strength and courage to fight Goliath because of His past experiences. "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37). He knew of providence because he had seen it. The book of Psalms is filled with encouragement based on all that God had done in the past for Israel. Our Lord reminded His followers about providence, which they had seen in the rain, the sun, the birds and the lily of the valley. Because every good gift is from above, it is not wrong for us to look backwards to see providence.

Providence Seen When Looking Forward

The words of Abraham to Isaac show us that we can see His coming providence by faith. Isaac was concerned and asked his father about the animal for the sacrifice. The patriarch's answer was simple. "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen. 22:8). He had no idea how God would provide it, he just knew that He who had always provided in the past would do so in the future. David also looked forward with the eyes of faith and saw himself walking with his Shepherd through the valley of death.

Providence Seen in Your Life

So when troubles surround you and you are overwhelmed, stop and mediate on these two sides of providence. Look at how God has always helped His people. Look and see this truth in your past life. Then look to the adversity ahead and with the eye of faith march onward because you confidently know that your God will provide!

-Dan Jenkins

(<http://www.churchofchristarticles.com>)

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

(Cont'd from last week)

Elders: The elders shepherd the flock as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly. "Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (I Peter 5:1-5)

Elders were appointed in the early churches. Disputes were decided by the apostles and elders. (Acts 15:6) They were called to pray over the sick of the church. (James 5:14)

Paul cautioned the elders to care for the flock, keeping them safe from savage wolves, who would come in among them. (Acts 20:28, 29)

We also have an obligation to the elders. "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honors, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses." (I Tim. 5:17, 19)

Deacons: I Tim. 3:8-13 "Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." NKJV

Not as much is said about deacons as there is about elders. Their work is similar to the seven men who were chosen to help serve in the early church in Jerusalem. The apostles were busy preaching and spreading the gospel of Christ. They needed devout men to help the members with the day to day business. (Acts 6:1-7)

(Continued bottom of column 3)

Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

Jan Loveless – fell and broke her leg – surgery on 12/8 - will go to rehab-will need no weight bearing on the leg for 6-12 weeks to heal

Carolyn Ezell – colon surgery on 12/16 at St Vincent's Hospital

Bill Roderick – at home, improving

Jason Leavell – still in Rehab @ Baptist Medical Center

Elliot Crouch – continuing to improve every day- up to 4 lb 11 oz and is taking a bottle now – surgery still postponed

Charlie Tindall- taking chemo w/radiation treatments

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Billie Nichols

Legacy Heights:

Bonnie Vinson

Juanita Whitted

Russellville Nsg & Rehab:

Joe Miller

Leona Sayer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Myra Ballenger, Amie Barkley, Juanita Bird, Nubbin Boley, Donna Chambers, Jamie Churchill, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Dennis Drewry, Sarah Ensey, Johnny Estes, Ginger Garren, Yolanda Greenway, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Jonathan /Sheila Holland, Melba Horton, Braden Lambert, Ronnie Leavell, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Bea McDaniel, Linda McDaniel, Leonard Medlin, Jeff/Connie Myers, Becky/Kevin 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

Truth for Today Commentary

The Life of Christ, 1

By David L. Roper

Page 139

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Here is the heart of the gospel story in a single verse:

“God”—the Greatest Being.

“So loved”—the greatest trait.

“The world”—the greatest company.

“That He gave”—the greatest act.

“His only begotten Son”—the greatest gift.

“That whoever”—the greatest opportunity.

“Believes”—the greatest foundation.

“In Him”—the greatest attraction.

“Shall not perish”—the greatest tragedy.

“But”—the greatest difference.

“Have eternal life”—the greatest promise.

(continued from column 1)

Our elders watch out for our souls. Our deacons watch for the needs of the church. Both are very important and necessary for our church. They never get enough thanks for all their work!

EVENTS

Next Ladies Devo:

January 21, 2016

Will be held in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:30pm. This is our planning meeting for our annual Ladies' Day that will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

For the Children:

The children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th. We will meet at 9:00 at the church building. First we will deliver the Christmas baskets to the older members and the shut-ins. After this we will have a hay ride and sing Christmas carols. We will come back to the church building and end with a pizza party. We will plan to finish by 12:00.

Note: There will be no Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class on 12/22 or 12/29.

The church office will be closed from 12/21-1/1/16. There will be no Lifelines for 1/3/16 & 1/10/16

(if you need something, please call the number for the secretary on the back page of the Lifelines.)

Mark Your Calendars

Lads to Leaders News:

There will be a L2L Website work night after church on Wednesday, December 23rd. Please bring pictures on smart phones or cameras.

Also, there will be Bible Bowl practice on 12/20, but not on 12/27. We will start again on January 3rd, 2016 and continue each Sunday at 4:30pm until the convention. All the children of the church are encouraged to come and study the book of Matthew.

For Everyone:

To make the Christmas baskets we need cookies, candies, oranges, apples and bananas. We would like to have all of these brought to the church building by 3:00 pm Friday, December 18th. See Amanda Besterfeldt if you would like to help with the assembly of the baskets.

Correction:

The Harding University Chorus will present a program of song at the Westside Church of Christ on Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 11:00 am. Our Alaynna Williams is a member of this chorus.

December Birthdays

- 01 Rhonda Horton
Libby Widner
- 02 LeighAnne Forehand
- 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

Thanks so much:

to all the ladies and gentlemen who worked so hard to decorate and then to clean up after our Christmas parties last week. So few do the work and so many of us get to benefit from their effort!

THOSE TO SERVE

December 20th, 2015

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

William Boley
Alan Boatright

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted
Serve: Allen Veasman
Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger
Brett Cains

Scripture Reading

Walt Davis

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Allen Veasman
Brent Hottinger

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

January 11th, 2016

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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