



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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## JESUS –24/7/365

*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.-- Galatians 6:14*

Once upon a time long ago it was decided by human beings that December 25th of each year should be celebrated as the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was done even though there is no command, inference, principle or example set forth in God's word that authorizes this practice. Certainly, the birth of God's son was a momentous event that should warm our hearts. We should be rejoicing every day that God did send his son into this world to be born of woman and live among men for a short period of time but insofar as God's word is concerned, greater emphasis is placed on Jesus death than on his birth.(John 3:16, 1 Cor. 15:12-20)

A long time ago, on the hill called Calvary, the son of God died for us (Matt. 15:15-25, Rom. 5:8-10). His death on that cross brings to all who are willing to obey him an abundant life, eternal salvation and a peace that passes all

understanding (Heb. 5:8-9, Phil. 4:6-7). Through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we follow him as he walks this pathway of life. We go with him through his baptism and the temptations in the wilderness. Then for some astonishing moments we sit at his feet and listen to the great Sermon on the Mount. We watch as time after time he heals the sick, gives sight to the blind, makes the lame walk and the deaf hear. We even see him raise the dead back to life.

One day we listen as he talks with his disciples about leaving them and suddenly, all too soon, we are gathered at the last supper and then we leave that upper room and walk with him into the Garden of Gethsemane where our hearts are deeply touched by the tremendous agony of soul that envelopes him. Then the mob approaches led by one Judas Iscariot. Now we watch as our Lord must endure trials in which he is beaten, spat on, mocked and humiliated in every possible way. Now we walk with him to that hill called Calvary and see him crucified between two thieves.

Finally, it is over, but is it? He is placed in a burial tomb but

that tomb cannot hold him (Luke 24:6-7). He arose, hallelujah, he arose and because he did, through obedience to him we have an anchor for our souls as we press onward toward the day when we will receive that crown of righteousness (Heb. 6:18-19, Phil. 3:13-14).

Multiplied millions with much zeal and enthusiasm are in the process of celebrating a day that most of the religious world has set as the birthday of Jesus. But of these millions, I can only wonder how many know and have accepted the full meaning of the life, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus, Son of God, Savior of man. Of a truth, his birth was and is a most significant event in history. But never forget that if he had not died as he did on that cross and come forth victorious from that grave, his birth would be no cause for celebration at any time of the year.

If we really want to honor him, let's do it 365 days a year by showing our love for him through an exacting obedience to him every one of those days.

*Charles Hicks, White House, Tennessee*

# Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

## Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

*Truth for Today Commentary The  
Life of Christ, 1*

*by David L. Roper pp. 425-426*

We all benefit from Paul's writings, thirteen letters in the NT, fourteen if he wrote Hebrews. We know his letters were inspired by the Holy Spirit. His teachings go from exhorting and building up, to berating and correcting. He also showed his love for the churches in his writings.

In his second letter to the church at Corinth, he used tact and gentleness when asking about their "voluntary" gift they were collecting for the saints in Jerusalem. He had boasted about it, but wanted to make sure they were still collecting! He didn't want to go there with friends and be humiliated. He wanted them to have it ready when he got there. He even had some of the brethren to go on ahead to make sure it was ready.

Working on their compassion, he writes, "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2Cor. 9:6-7 RSV). Did he try to shame them?

In verse 8 he continues, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." God provides us enough that we can share with others.

Paul did the same in his letter to Philemon. He uses a little bargaining with Philemon. He was asking Philemon to accept his runaway slave back as a brother in Christ. Undoubtedly, Onesimus, besides running away, must have stolen from his master. Paul offers to pay back what he owes.

"I, Paul, am writing with my own hand, I will repay – not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides" (v.19). We don't know the outcome but I can imagine Paul was very persuasive! Did he try to shame him?

**Greg Widner** – second hip surgery this week

**Braden Lambert** – has been in the hospital with serious lung infection

**Jan Loveless** – has gone to stay with her son – getting stronger every day

**Carolyn Ezell** – colon surgery went well and home recovering

**Jason Leavell** – has come home with additional therapy.

**Elliot Crouch** – shunt surgery planned for this week - up to 5 lbs

**Charlie Tindall** - recently spent some time in the hospital still 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, Johnny Estes, Ginger Garren, Yolanda Greenway, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Ronnie Leavell, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Bea McDaniel, Linda McDaniel, Leonard Medlin, Jeff/Connie Myers, Becky Miller, Julie Moss, Bill Roderick, Michael Tindall, Joan/Jon Vance, Justin Vaughn, Joyce Walters, Greg Widner and Patsy Wisbrock.

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

### Expectant Mothers:

Beckie Clark

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us... (2 Cor. 5:20 NIV)*

As Christ's ambassadors, we should live a special kind of life. Remember, we are representing the King.

This should be a life characterized by *godly fear*. Jesus said, "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt. 10:28).

This should be a life characterized by *boldness in proclaiming the Lord*. Christ said, "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 10:32, 33). We are to acknowledge Him in word. We should also acknowledge Him in deed (see Tit. 1:16). The President of the US may have his Secret Service, but Jesus does not. We should openly acknowledge that we are servants of our King.

This should be a life characterized by *right priorities*. God, Jesus, and the kingdom must be placed above all else. They are more important than our families. Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:37). The Lord's kingdom is more important than our very lives. Again, Christ said that "he who has lost his life for My sake will find it" (Mt. 10:39b).

This should be a life characterized by *self-denial*. Jesus said, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:38). This is the first mention of the cross in the Book of Matthew. Jesus later "took up His Cross" –literally. We are to be willing to follow Him.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Amie Barkley graduated from ATU on 12/19 with Bachelor of Professional Studies.

# 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.

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

### NOTICE:

*We will have regular Wednesday evening services on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and on December 30<sup>th</sup>.*

## Lads to Leaders News:

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

Also, there will not be Bible Bowl practice on 12/27. We will start again on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

## Mark Your Calendars 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.*

### Attention:

There will be no Lifelines for 1/3/16 & 1/10/16. Assignments for worship will be posted in the building.

*Deadline for items for the next Lifelines will be Thursday morning, 1/7/16.*

The church office will be closed from 12/21-1/1/16.

*If you need something from the church office, please call the number for the secretary on the back page of the Lifelines.*

*Happy New Year to all!*

## January Birthdays

### December Birthdays

- 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



- 01 Billy Walters
- 02 Marilyn Veasman
- 06 Shelby Bell
- 07 Chris Moss
- 09 Micah Williams
- 10 Kortland Baldrige
- 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

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## **Sunday A.M.**

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

### **Prayers**

Blake Walters  
Brett Walters

### **Communion**

**Podium:** Earl Whitted  
**Serve:** Charles Davis  
Chris Besterfeldt  
Chris Loper  
Chris Moss

### **Scripture Reading**

Sid Womack

## **Sunday P.M.**

### **Prayers**

Chris Loper  
Charles Davis

# **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**

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 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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