



Life Lines

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

Volume 17 Number 08

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

February 19, 2006

MY LINES

Micah Williams

Micah (6:1-8)

"Hear now what the Lord is saying, arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring fountains of the earth, because the Lord has a case against His people; even with Israel He will dispute. My people, what have I done to you, and how have I wearied you? Answer me. Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you might know the righteous acts of the Lord. With what shall I come to the Lord and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? Does the Lord take a delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love, kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

We live in a society that has elevated the autonomous individual to a place of supreme importance. It is the individual's welfare, sensitivities and choices that must be considered as all costs and society is to be shaped accordingly. It is the autonomous individual alone who can say what is right or wrong for him or

her, and no other moral code or authority can be superimposed on the individual's determination.

That's all I want, that's all you need in life, is a little place for your stuff, ya know? Everybody's got a little place for their stuff. This is my stuff, that's your stuff, that'll be his stuff over there. That's all you need in life, a little place for your stuff.

That's all your house is: a place to keep your stuff. If you didn't have so much stuff, you wouldn't need a house. A house is just a pile of stuff with a cover on it. You can see that when you're taking off in an airplane. You look down; you see everybody's got a little pile of stuff.

And when you leave your house, you gotta lock it up. Wouldn't want somebody to come by and take some of your stuff. They always take the good stuff. They never bother with the (junk) you're saving. All they want is the shiny stuff. That's what your house is, a place to keep your stuff while you go out and get more stuff! Sometimes you gotta move, gotta get a bigger house. Why? No room for your stuff anymore.

Not that our souls should be empty, cold and lifeless. Micah's message is that our souls should not be possessed of possessions. If we're going to have "stuff" it ought to be "stuff" of doing justice, the "stuff" of loving kindness and the "stuff" of walking humbly with God.

Only God can define what is good and what is right because God alone is totally good. There is no other standard of good outside of Him and no action or word can be good unless it accords His will.

He instructs us because He loves us. The whole passage is a court case between the Lord and His people. The prophet tells Israel what they should

have done; but didn't do. Important for understanding the whole passage is the second line of verse 3, which is the indictment God brings against the people. They are "wearied" with the Lord; their patience's with Him is exhausted. Israel is in some kind of trouble that is not specified and she has lost all patience and hope while waiting for the Lord to deliver her. Which leads to Israel's reaction . . . what does it take to appease God? That is Israel's question.

Israel has forgotten God's deliverance of them from the curse of Balak and Balaam, and His guidance of them through the Jordan from Shittim to their first encampment at Gilgal. Contrary to the Israelite speaker's sarcastic list of what God might require, his prophets enumerate in Micah 6:8 (which is not unlike I Samuel 15:22 or Matthew 5:24).

Justice (mispat): this context signifies God's order for the whole of life – (a) it includes legal justice, but its meaning is much broader than that. (b) To do justice is to order every area of life in accord with God's will.

Kindness (Hesed): is a covenant concept, which means to be faithful to one's covenant with God and with one's fellows, to be bound together with Him, to be a community that lives in steadfast loyalty to God and to other human beings. Israel is told to "love" justice.

Walk humbly (hasene'a) means much more than simply "modesty", "in a lowly manner". It includes the meaning of "paying attention to," "watching". In short, Israel is to pay attention to God's will and not her own, is to watch God for what is good and not what she wants, to be attentive always to her relationship with God. If she does that she will "love kindness" and "do mercy".

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

In his "Footnotes" on December 18, 2005, Dan Lightfoot wrote, "When we tire of our roles, it helps to remember that God has planted us where we are, and we need to be faithful to Him, and bloom where we are planted." *The Vision*

Nice weather in January makes us think of the coming spring. With spring we begin to think of planting flowers and vegetables. We know from experience there are several things we have to do to have pretty flowers and a successful garden. You can't plant them and then leave them to fend for themselves. They need water, cultivation and some fertilizer. You must keep the weeds out also.

Our Christian role is somewhat the same. Our spiritual life must be cultivated. If not it will become stale. We must continue to study the Word. We must be active in the programs at church. We must encourage others, help the weak, teach and evangelize. The devil will be there like a thorn bush if we don't stay busy.

"When our burdens are heavy and we are tempted to quit, Satan charges in and says, 'Give up, it's too hard. You'll never make it.' When we take our eyes off Jesus and forget for a minute His power within us, we think, 'You're right, it is too hard. I am too discouraged, I'll quit.'

"These are the times we need to remember the Jesus of Gethsemane – the Jesus who also had these moments. We cannot know when God will lift us from our mountain of responsibility into fullness of life everlasting, but this one thing we can be sure: We are made for mountains and whenever He calls, we should be found climbing!"

Author Unknown

And like Dan said, "It helps to remember that God has planted us where we are, and we need to be faithful to Him, and bloom where we are planted."

Remember Our Sick

Evelyn Burton – was admitted to St. Mary's Sunday, Jan. 29th with heart pains. Released February 1st, tests showed blood pressure problems.

Family of Matt and Nikki Tackett - asking for prayer.

Alice Hollis – admitted to Little Rock Heart Hospital, with serious gall bladder and pancreatic problems. On critical list, Tuesday, February 7th.

Troy Meadows – triple by-pass surgery Thursday, Feb. 2nd. Home Tuesday, Feb. 7th, weak, slow recovery.

Kaitlyn Schwartz – reducing fluids, final stages. Prayers are so needed for this child, her parents and family.

Shut-ins: Needs prayers and visits.

Dover Area:

Bernice Brown

Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Thelma Hatcher

Esther Sparks

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Susie Boley, Tom Cloud, Jamie Churchill, Jeff Davis, Barbara Forehand, Virginia Grant, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Brian Holloway, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Tanya Smith, Pauline Whorton and Valentina.

Special Children: Emmy May, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin, Zachary Shelton and Noah Williams.

Military: Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, and Johnny Ragsdale. Cole Wetzel is stateside waiting for his next assignment.

Dover Church of Christ
New Membership
Get-To-Gether!
Sunday, February 26th
After Evening Services
Refreshments:
Visitation Committee

Family Love

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those that mourn." (Romans 12:15) *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

Some homes have an atmosphere that is pleasant, comfortable and friendly. You know what it's like to enjoy such a home. Yet some families experience that all too infrequently. For others, that's the way it is most of the time. What makes the difference?

Some homes have an atmosphere that is tense, on edge, uncomfortable and strained. Just about every family experiences that once in a while. But for some families, that's the way it is most of the time. Again, have you ever wondered what makes the difference?

Think about this: *Part of a family's function is to shoulder one end of our burdens and to share the delight of your blessings. Robert Frost said, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they take you in." It is that, and a whole lot more. It is a center of fellowship, where families can be friends, where power and blessings abound. Helping us to celebrate God's love is the chief blessing our families can give us. The unity that our palmist calls "good and pleasant" is as much dependant on God as the anointing oil that Aaron a priest or dew that watered Zion when there was no rain. Only as we know how much God loves each of us can we begin to know how to love each other. Friendly families are not those where there are no differences or disagreements, but those where God's love provides the strong glue that binds them together whatever the differences may be. Families can be friends but only true love takes charge. The Bible says this love comes from God. Have you found any better source?*

From: Recovering from the Losses of Life
By: H. Norman Wright
Visions, Russellville, AR

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 2 to 8

Story for February
"God Chose Abraham"
(Genesis 12:1-20)

Memory Verse:

*"I will bless you and make
your name great."*
(Genesis 12:2b)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

goes to James and Shirlie
Chadwick for a great
"Teacher's Banquet".

Also the food prepared by
Donny Forehand was
delicious.

Thanks to those who helped:

Marion and Joyce Helton,
Clara Hefley, Gwen Hale
and Bobbye Moline.

All teachers received
certificates in appreciation
for the past year. Charlene
Clark was given the honor of
"Teacher of the Year" for all
her years of devoted teaching
and service.

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Church of Christ "Tuesday Night Crop"

February 21st, 6:15 PM

Join us for an evening of scrap-
booking in Fellowship Hall.

Christeens 2006

February 24th thru 26th

"The Price Is Right"

Reservations and money
(\$10.00 per person)
needs to be in by Friday,
February 10th.
wsyouth.org

RENEWAL 2006

February 25th

8:30 AM – 5:50PM

Liberty Church of Christ
Conway, AR

Liberty Youth & Family
Ministry Invite you to attend a
day of renewal!

libertychurch@cyberback.com
501-329-9238

Ladies Day!

Saturday, April 8th, 2006

Dover Church of Christ

February Birthdays

- 03 Mildred Turner
Jon David Vance
- 04 Andrew Land
- 08 Mary McAlister
- 09 Juanita Whitted
- 11 Kristen Nordin
- 12 Shawn Bates
Emily Straight
- 15 Zachary Shelton
- 16 Rachel Curtis
- 19 Carolyn Bennett
Tyler Mullins
- 20 Kaci Statler
- 21 Julie Moss
- 22 Eugene Davis
Keri Letson
Troy Meadows
- 23 Bernice Brown
Pat McAlister
Linda Vance Herron
- 24 Earl Kennedy
- 26 Suzanne Land
- 27 Caleb Chance
John Clark
- 28 Theresa Motley

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

Dover Church of Christ
Singles' Breakfast
Every Saturday, 9:00AM
Bayou Café

Ladies Day

Saturday, March 4th
Registration: 8:30 AM
Overcup Church of Christ
Speaker: Juanita Felts
Theme: "Showers of Blessings"

THOSE TO SERVE

February 19, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Gary Williams
James Chadwick

Communion

Podium: Chris Loper
Serve: Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman
Andy Land
Bill McAlister

Scripture Reading

Blake Walters

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Jim Killer
Joe Miller

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Marion and Joyce Helton

Communion to Shut-Ins

Lawrence Boley
Marion Helton

Greeters

Troy and Rachel Curtis

Wednesday Night Devotional

February 22, 2006

Dennis Whiteside

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
7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Charlene Clark
Patsy Wisbrock
Sunday Service: Marilyn Veasman
Wednesday Class: Carin Chance

Life Lines is a Publication of the Dover Church of Christ

Editor: Pat McAlister, Layout and Design: Joan Vance, Technical Assistance: M. Shoptaw

Dover Church of Christ
P.O. Box 299
Dover, AR 72837
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dover, AR
Permit No. 18