



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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MY LINES

Micah Williams

What Is the “Age of Accountability”?

By: Sid T. Womack

Published in Firm Foundation, 1983

“Age of Accountability” is not a term found in our Bible, but the concept is one that merits serious consideration to anyone contemplating putting on Christ. What is meant by this term of convenience is that one has matured to the point where he is aware of sin and the guilt that follows sin and is amenable to God’s teaching about redemption.

It is unlikely that a universal age of accountability will ever be established, and rightly so. Any Procrustean designations of an age of accountability would be made in ignorance and disregard of interindividual differences in general intellectual functioning, home background, community and school influences, and opportunities for practice in moral judgment.

Parents and teachers of elementary age children in Bible school find themselves facing a two-sided dilemma; should they refuse to baptize a child of seven or eight, hoping that the child will maintain his interest in things spiritual until God has given him a few more years to grow up? Or should the child be baptized with the possibility that he

has no understanding of the commitment he is making? It can be an agonizing decision. One parent discouraged his daughter of eight from being baptized. She did not inquire into the matter again until she was seventeen. Understandably, the family was concerned for the daughter’s spiritual welfare.

Baptism of infants for the remission of sins is nowhere commanded, suggested, or exemplified in the Bible. Lacking scriptural authority, we do not baptize infants into the church of Christ. The book of Acts tells us that candidates for immersion had heard, believed, repented of past sins, and confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord. Scriptural foundations for this may be found in Acts 2:37-47; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; and Romans 10:8-10. We do not baptize infants or the dead because they are incapable of doing these prerequisite things.

What are some indications that an individual is a fitting candidate for baptism? Not just age, for the mentally retarded may not become aware of a sin problem until many years after his age-mates. The gifted child raised in a Christian home may have the ability to make a meaningful commitment very early. Looking at what is involved in the first four steps of the plan of salvation, these questions appear valid:

1. Does the child have sufficient attention span to profit from instruction?

2. Does the child show a favorable attitude (belief) toward Biblical things?
3. Does He enjoy going to church?
4. Can he identify specific instances of sin in his own life? Can he, in confidence, name several things that he has secretly done that he knows were wrong?
5. Does he show basic understanding of God, Jesus, and the role the Church plays?
6. Does he have a basic understanding of what he will be expected to do after he is baptized.
7. Has he ever lied about a misdeed in order to escape the natural consequences of his actions?

If the child is lacking very much of the above, he probably does not understand what baptism is about. He may be seeking baptism because his friends are doing it or he may be intrigued by the Lord’s supper which members share.

He should be told that there are some more things he should learn before being baptized.

One of the most crucial of these is to know when guilt is appropriate and when it isn’t.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13:20)

What do you fear most? Do you fear public speaking? Or teaching a class? Are you afraid someone will ask a question you can't answer? This can happen but it's not the end of the world. I've never seen anyone throw darts at a teacher because he/she could not answer a question. So, what do we fear, rejection or embarrassment?

"For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you." (Isaiah 41:13)

Diane has a remedy for a question she can't answer in our ladies' class. It's a good one that is very beneficial. She assigns it to the person to look up for the next class. This is not to hinder someone from asking a question because by asking questions we all learn. It is a good tool for us to learn. The person doing the research will learn the most. The person teaching the class learns the most, too.

Fear can be a dangerous thing. Fear should not hinder us from our work for the Lord. Whether we are teaching a class or one on one, we can trust God to help us. None of us know everything. "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

Fear of God should be of reverence and awe. We have this type of fear because we love Him and trust Him and His Word. However, if we take His Word lightly, we will surely fear His wrath. When He says we will be punished for not obeying Him we know this to be true.

Walk with God, fear Him and we will have no reason to fear man or the consequences that arise in our lives.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Aaron Culwell was baptized Sunday,
February 26, 2006.

Remember Our Sick

Lloyd Boley – Lawrence Boley's brother, diagnosed with an incurable muscle disease.

Dora Dean Cloud – serious health problems.

Hoyt Ensey – serious health problems, Dialysis three times a week.

Alice Hollis – in St. Mary's rehab until surgery is scheduled at Heart Hospital, Little Rock. Strength improving.

Rose Lee – had surgery on her shoulder, March 7th, home recovering

Sue Williams – Micah's Grand-mother, back in hospital.

W. T. Williams – Micah's grand-father, heart problems.

Virgil Turner – serious lung problems.

Elsie Youngerman – cancer back, undergoing chemo treatments.

Shut-ins: Need prayers and visits.
Dover Area:

Bernice Brown

Evelyn Burton

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, Sue Griffin, Jeff Davis, Barbara Forehand, Virginia Grant, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Brian Holloway, Robert Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Troy and Bennie Lou Meadows, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Tanya Smith, Matt and Nikki Tackett, 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, Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

Stoke the Folk!

While on vacation a couple of weeks ago, we had the occasion to build a fire. The whole family sat around it for a couple of hours just talking and tending the fire. It was a great opportunity to discuss the benefits of fire (i.e. we had cooked our food over it and it comforted us from the chill of the evening) and compare it to God's word. "Is not My word like fire" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:28 NIV)

But as we were sitting there a thought occurred to me – the church is like a fire, as well. Just like a fire, there is great benefit to being a part of the LORD's church. How I wish more brethren would take advantage of the times we burn brightly for the Lord in work and worship.

Then I did something that amazed the kids. The fire would die down just a little and I would take a stick and stroke the coals and the fire would burn brightly, again. It is amazing that just moving burning coals around a little made such a big difference in the fire.

There's a lesson for the church in this, as well. It is important to keep moving about, working and fellowshiping together, and encouraging one another. Doing this breathes needed oxygen into the church and helps the Gospel fire to burn in our hearts and lives. Stroke the fire – stroke the folk!

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24, 25 – NIV)

"... and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action." (II Corinthians 9:3, NIV)

By: Edd Sterchi
BULLETIN DIGEST

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 2 to 8

Story for March,
"God's Promise to
Abraham"

(Genesis 13, 14, 15)

Memory Verse:

*"For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and
only Son . . ."*
(John 3:16a)

Ladies Day!

Dover Church of Christ

Saturday, April 8th, 2006
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Speaker: Barbara Knight

*"As for me and my house we
will serve the Lord."* (Josh
14:15)

Come with anticipation of:
Laughter
Joy
Being Uplifted
and
Encouraged
Lunch will be provided.

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Ladies Night

March 23rd, 7:00 PM
(4th Thursday)

(Please Note the Correction)
Hostess: Diane Walters
Pine Hill Rd., Dover, AR

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP!!

Saturday
March 25th, 8:00 AM

Volunteers meet at the
Dover Church of Christ
Parking Lot

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Jamie and Mary Ann Churchill
announce the arrival of their
latest grandchild, Elena Christia
Churchill, born March 6, 2006,
weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz.

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

March Birthdays

- 02 Kelly Williams
- 02 Bryan Bates
Keaton Creel
Rick Hollis
- 07 Harold Turner
Colton Williams
- 08 Adam Land
- 12 Carl Lawley
- 13 Matthew Moss
- 17 Jim Killer
- 18 Ryan Whiteside
- 21 William Boley
- 22 Alan Herron
- 25 Blake Brown
- 26 Mike Creel
Jessalyn Davis
Wilma Johnson
Shelby Statler
- 28 Kaeli Miller

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

**Vickie Cox, Lawrence Boley's
daughter, re-dedicated her life
to her Savior and His church,
Sunday, March 5, 2006.**

REMINDER: The Southern
Christian Home truck will be
here, Thursday, March 30th.

Attention: Are you a Dover High
School or college graduate this year?
If so, please contact Shirlie
Chadwick. Plans are being made to
celebrate your accomplishments; we
do not want to leave anyone out.

THOSE TO SERVE

March 19, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Brett Walters
Chris Loper

Communion

Podium: Jim Killer
Serve: Paul Helton
Rick Hollis
Troy Curtis
William Boley

Scripture Reading

Alan Boatright

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Dennis Whiteside
Donny Forehand

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

JoAnn Killer

Communion to Shut-Ins

Chris Loper
Chris Ramirez

Greeters

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Wednesday Night Devotional

March 22, 2006

John Myers

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

Wednesday Class: Carin Chance

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Dover Church of Christ
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