



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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The Challenges of Being A Christian with an Open Mind

By David Chadwell

By God's design, Judaism in the Bible was smallness that focused on retaining smallness. Israel was a small nation – so small that all the men of the nation were commanded to assemble in a designated place three times yearly to worship God. (Deuteronomy 16:16)

In contrast, Christianity, by God's design, is enormous (Matthew 13:31-43). It is worldwide in existence, outreach and influence.

Often God's people victimize themselves through their expectations. First century Israel struggled to grasp that God loved and cared about all mankind. Their expectations declared God loved only people who did things the way Israel did them. Sometimes we struggle with the same understanding. It is easy to think God is happy if "He just has us."

Opening our minds to the fullness of God's purposes is easily intended, but challenging to do. It is too easy to dismiss a concern from God by saying, "That is not what God wants!" or "God is not like that!" or "God is not interested

in those things!" Too often it is we who do not want that, or do not like that or have no interest in that. Most of us cannot imagine God not having the same concerns and focus "I have."

The prophet Isaiah said of God (Isaiah 55:8-9) "***For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.***"

Paul told Athens' elite they should not think of God in terms of a piece of physical art work produced by humans. (Acts 17:29) Paul also reminded Christians that God did the unimaginable: "***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.***" (Romans 11:33-36)

The challenge an open mind presents to the Christian is not the challenge to believe anything declared by the people, but to believe everything declared by God.

It is not to be easily deceived by human reasoning, but to be open to God's word. It is not to be lead by the desires of people, but to never stop seeking God's purposes in Jesus Christ.

It is the willingness to let God lead us as we grow in understanding. It is the willingness to refuse to attempt to manipulate God.

It is the willingness to repent and redirect life any time such repentance and redirection is needed.

It is the willingness to refuse to shackle God's work by our expectations.

It is the willingness to free Jesus Christ from our expectations.

It is the willingness to listen as the word speaks to us rather than dictating to the word its meaning.

Quite a challenge, isn't it?

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

WHICH AM I?

A strong horse magnet may be held over an old rust eaten, shapeless nail without meeting any response. A bright, ringing nail will leap to the magnet, attract another, and through it draw yet another until several are attracted.

That is how Christians are. A really, genuine, active, shinning Christian has a tremendous attraction to Christ, is magnetized by His love, and purity, attracted by His power. And, through that Christian, Christ can draw others to Him to share the same power and attraction.

But a rusty, unpolished, corroded Christian, cranky, defiled, and selfish, has very little attraction. And through him the power of Christ to win the world can not flow.

God has enough power to wipe out every vice and every evil doctrine in this world, but first of all there must be conditions. If we are rusty, untaught, unprepared and unpracticed we can not draw others near to God.

Our religion must be intensive before it can be extensive.

Author Unknown

A very sad thought is that this rusty, unpolished, corroded Christian can actually work the opposite. This person can pull others away from God because of their actions. Those who are weak are easily influenced by someone like this. They actually do more harm than good.

Which am I?

Am I leading others to Christ or pushing them away?

Remember Our Sick

Michael Beasley – 18 yrs. old, acute depression.

Lois Boley – home from hospital.

Eugene Cox – hospitalized more complications, ICU.

Troy Curtis – hip replacement surgery, home recovering.

Joyce Helton – Lymph-node surgery April 29, LR, radiation treatments to follow.

Marion Helton – eye surgery, stitches removed April 29.

Annette Hull – surgery scheduled May 13, to remove tumor, Ft. Smith.

Mary McAlister – home, recovering.

Jerry Martin, Jr. – in ICU, Heart attack, Joplin Hospital, Lupus.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Bernice Brown**
Evelyn Burton
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:
Evelyn Driver
Melba Hodges

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**
Mae Vanzandt

Towbin Health Care, LR:
Charles Hickey

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Wm/Susie Boley, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Eddie Holloway, Mark Holloway, Charles Ensey, Hoyt/Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Paul/Sue Griffin, Leota Hickey, Cleon Johnson, Ray/Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Liliya McDaniel, Mary Martin, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Beverly Myers, Charles Proctor, Margie Ratchford, Don Sheeran, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, & Judy Will.

Special Children: Elysia Lee, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Expectant Mothers: Kelly Chance, Amy Johnson, and Kristen Nordin

Our Military: Greg Davis, (state-side) Cole Wetzell, and Rudy Will (out of Iraq, home soon).

**Record attendance
Dover's Ladies' Day
About 112!!**

How Do You Picture or Imagine God?

From Home Touch

It is an interesting question, so researchers at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, posed this question to thousands of people across the country.

The results of the study showed that Americans picture God in one of four primary ways, and the view of God they hold directly affects their beliefs and positions on social, economic and political issues.

Some Americans see God as Authoritarian, others as a Distant God, still others as a Benevolent God, and finally some Americans see God as a Critical God.

There is not enough space here to go into details. But it's pertinent because Isaiah, in today's reading, also had a vision of God: *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord . . . high and lifted up."* (Isaiah 6:1 KJV)

The fascinating development in Isaiah's story is not how his vision of God affected his outlook on social and political issues, but how it altered his vision of *himself!*

When Isaiah saw God he said, *"Woe is me, for I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips . . . for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."* (6:5 KJV)

Isaiah saw how small he was compared to God's greatness. He saw how unclean he was compared to God's purity. It's a helpful reminder for us today that, as we move throughout our day, we serve a God who's so majestic and awesome that our complaints seem small.

One final thing. After this experience, this same God describes a needy world to Isaiah and asks Isaiah whom he will send to the people. Isaiah's response after he'd seen *"the Lord high and lifted up,"* was: *"Here am I, send me."* (6:8)

Events

Dover Church of Christ
Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities

Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

Graduation Celebration!!

For those graduating in 2008

Sunday, PM, May 25th
Evening Services

Dover Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall

POTLUCK

No Area Wide Devo

For the Months of
May, June & July

Mark Your Calendars

List of 2008

Graduates thus far:

Skylar Creel, Kaeli Miller,
Jacob Shatwell, Danielle
Smith, Jordan Walters,
Cara Williams and Micah
Williams.

Call Shirlye Chadwick if you
are graduating in 2008 and
your name is not on the list.

Dover Ladies' Night

May 15, 7 PM

Hostess: Leota Hickey

Baby BOY Shower

For Kristen Nordin

Sunday, May 18, 3PM

Dover Fellowship Hall

Petit Jean Camp Out!

Dover Church of Christ

May 30th thru June 1st

Make plans now.

For more info see:
Sid Womack

May Birthdays

- 02 Amelia Besterfeldt
- 04 J. R. Hale
- 05 Brett Cains
- 06 Randall Walters
- 07 Jessica Straight
Victoria Thomas
Carlee Williams
- 08 Trinity Loper
- 13 Kelli Hottinger
Misty Pointer
- 15 Alan Boatright
Alicia Brown
- 20 Shelley Culwell
Aleck Pointer
- 24 Jaylinn Williams
- 25 Diane W. Walters
- 31 Paul Helton
Don Johnson

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

“In Search of The Lord's Way”

Now 24/7

The Search Program can
now be accessed any time
website: www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon's weekly lesson
can be heard and seen on
KARK, Channel 4
Sunday, 7:30 AM

THOSE TO SERVE

May 18, 2008

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Dennis Whiteside
Chris Loper

Communion

Podium: Jim Killer
Serve: Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Besterfeldt

Scripture Reading

Drew Walters

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Brett Walters
Brent Hottinger

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Diane Walters

Communion to Shut-Ins

William Boley
Alan Boatright

Greeters

Gary and Sonia Williams

Wednesday Night Devotional

May 21, 2008

Rex McDaniel

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
Joe Miller
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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