



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: staff@dovercoc.org

November 27, 2005

MY LINES

Micah Williams

In The Refiner's Fire

"But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire . . ." (Malachi 3:2)

In colorful and sometimes unexpected language the Old Testament Prophets visualized the coming of Christ . . . To Malachi, He would arise as the Great Refiner of hearts and lives.

Malachi was deeply concerned about the pollutions he saw in the world: Religious leaders who had become corrupt; People who were cynically robbing God of tithes and offerings; Worship which had been trivialized; God's laws of marriage and divorce disbelieved, dishonored and ignored.

No wonder Malachi longed for the coming of a "refiner" who would refuse to flatter their prejudices or condone their perversions but would subject their practices to the fiery test of heart-searching truth. His would appear ". . . to purify for himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good." (Titus 2:14, NIV) How does Christ refine us and purify us?

1) **He Refines Us By His Truth.** His word is pure; it enlightens the eyes and exercises a cleansing power over heart and life. He prayed to the Father: "Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17) "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls . . ." (I Peter 1:22)

2) **He Refines Us by The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is "Holy" not only because that is the essential attribute of His character; but because that is the result of His influence

on us. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-25) In Romans 8:13, Paul urges: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (NKJV) This is not miraculous. Not a usurpation of our will: Rather the Spirit provides encouragement to higher, holier living and strengthens us in overcoming our infirmities and weaknesses. (Romans 8:26)

3) **He Refines Us By Affection.** Malachi is also saying Christ brings His people into the furnace, and by causing them to pass through the fires, He burns out the dross and impurity of sin. It was said of Jesus Himself that, "For it was fitting . . . in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:10) It is by the refining fire of affliction that many Christian graces are matured and we begin to exhibit a closer likeness to the Savior.

Malachi says, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." (Malachi 3:3) The process by which silver and gold were refined in ancient times was by heating the ore and blowing air on it until the impurities rose to the surface and were burned away. "The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in as furnace on the earth, refined seven times." (Psalms 12:6) "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And

they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'" (Zechariah 13:9) The refiner sat before the crucible, watching the process closely, keeping the heat at the proper degree. As the impurities disappeared, the color became clearer and clearer until only the pure silver was left. The refiner knew the process was finished when he could see his own image reflected in the purified metal.

Humanity was made in the image of God; sin contaminated and fouled the Divine image; we have become mixed with impurity which must be refined away. ". . . as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness, Their feet are swift to shed blood, Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.'" (21-22) "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction. . ." (Romans 3:10-18, 21-22.) The whole purpose of our existence here is to be remade in the image of God's Son. "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren . . ." (Romans 8:29)

By: Bobby Dockery
The Seeker

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Special Thanks

Thank you! Thank you! The ladies want to thank the men of the church who made the decision to remodel our old kitchen area. It is so beautiful; we have more room and lots of cabinets.

When this project was first started the men asked the women for ideas. What would you like, where do you want things and how many things do you need? We gave them some ideas and away they went.

The Walker's did a superb job. The cabinets, the floor, all the designs are beautiful. We want to express to them how well they did on this project. Most of us know how much more difficult it is to remodel something very old than to build something new. Thank you very much to the Walker's – Ron, Wes and Chris.

There is always someone behind the scenes who does so much and never wants recognition. This time it is Alan Boatright. Many times, during this project, I would go into this area to see how it was going. Alan was there. He was there from start to finish. He was there for the dirty work, tearing out the old to the finish work. He volunteered his work to help hold the expenses down.

We may not say this enough but we appreciate you, Alan. Thank you for all you did on this new kitchen area.

There are others that were involved in the painting. Again, they were volunteers. This was Alan and Sandra Boatright, Allen and Marilyn Veasman and Merrell and Roxanna Shoptaw. We appreciate you, too. Thank you.

I've heard many, many compliments on our kitchen. Probably the men will like this one best. One of the ladies said, "I can't wait to have another potluck so we can try out our new kitchen!"

(Their next project is the Fellowship Hall.)

"Success is counted sweetest by those who never succeed."

Emily Dickinson

Remember Our Sick

James Dykes - St. Louis, MO, running tests, diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Sue Griffin – health problems.

Baby Emmy May – open heart surgery November 17th.

Bobbye Moline – Gwen Hale's sister and Lois Boley's friend – still running tests, excessive fluids in leg.

Brandon Reid – age 15, collapsed lung, severe health problems. He is a friend of Kevin Miller's.

Baby Kaitlyn Schwartz – the surgery on November 14th, went well. They think they removed most of the cancerous tumor.

Lisa Stone – St. Louis, MO, surgery of November 1, went well. Tumor was benign, home recovering.

Elsie Youngerman – St. Louis area, having surgery to remove a tumor November 7. (Has Hodgkin's disease)

Pauline Whorton – heart problems.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:
Thelma Hatcher

Esther Sparks
Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Kenneth Anderson, Lois Boley, Ruby Boley, Susie Boley, Bernice Brown, Jamie Churchill, Jason Coulter, James Ray Damouth, Jeff Davis, Ronda Fields, Randy Holland, Brian Holloway, Hayden Jones, Gigi Lane, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Jerry Martin, Janetta Mason, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Gene Smith, Tanya Smith and Valentina.

Expectant Mothers: Kristen Loper Nordin and Shelley Parker Culwell.

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

Military: Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale and Cole Wetzell.

"Be Still and Know"

"Be still and know that I am God."
(Psalm 46:10)

In our world of secular craziness, we need to read these words and ponder them very carefully.

When the world just doesn't make any sense, be still and know that Jesus is the truth and He will bring sanity to a sometimes insane existence. *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

When it seems that everyone has turned against us, be still and know that the Lord promised never to leave us or forsake us. *"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?'"* (Hebrews 13:5-6)

When the storms of life (both physical and emotional) are raging about us, be still and know that God will be our shelter in any storm that the devil can throw at us. *"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:37-39)

When the future looks dark and dim, be still and know that God is already there and there is nothing that He doesn't know and can't handle. (See Psalm 139)

What a wonderful God we serve. Brethren, let us try to remember these things when life gets dark and dreary; when the days seem empty and long; when all seems to fail us: Be Still and Know!

Bulletin Digest

Events

Dover Church of Christ
Children's Church
Every Sunday

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

Story for November:
"Adam and Eve."
Genesis 3:1-24

Memory Verse:
". . . hear the Word of God
and obey it." (Luke 11:28b)

Adult Christmas PARTY

December 3rd, 6:00 PM
Host/Hostess:
Allen & Marilyn
Veasman

Santa's Gift
(for the Santa
Exchange Game)

Potluck

Meat Dish Furnished
See sign-up sheet to indicate
the dish you would like to
bring.

Join In The Fellowship!!

Mark Your Calendars

BABY SHOWER

Sunday, 2:00 PM
December 4th
Dover Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall

It's A "Boy"
Shell/Aron Culwell
(Soon to be proud parents!)

90th Birthday Celebration!!

For Athel Hill
December 11th

Open House –
2:00 – 4:00 PM
(No Gifts)

Dover Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall

Congratulations!!

Ava Cowelle Norton was
born to Phillip and Jaime
Norton on Thursday,
October 20, 2005, Doctors'
Hospital, Little Rock.
Grandpa Dennis Whiteside
says, "She's doing great!"
and has plenty of pictures
to prove it.

November Birthdays

01 Esther Sparks
06 Roxana Shoptaw
07 Charlene Clark
09 Kim Walters
10 Diane Shinn
Andy Jackson
12 Dana Bates
14 Daniel Loper
15 Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Michael Williams
18 Clara Hefley
Kevin Miller
20 Marion Helton
Kimberlee Bushea
24 Ted Shinn
29 Charles Hickey
Taylor Thomas

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

Men's Business Meeting
Dover Church of Christ
December 5th
Monday, 7:00 PM

Men's Devo
Dover Church of Christ
December 8th,
Thursday, 7:00PM

Special Ministry Meeting
Dover Church of Christ
December 13th,
Tuesday, 7:00PM

THOSE TO SERVE

November 27, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Sid Womack
Robert Bird

Communion

Podium: Marion Helton
Serve: Mike Creel
Paul Helton
Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis

Scripture Reading

William Boley

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Chris Moss
Alan Boatright

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Donny and Leigh Ann Forehand

Communion to Shut-Ins

Chris Loper
Allen Veasman

Greeters

Gary and Sonia Williams

**Wednesday Night
Devotional**

November 30, 2005

Jim Killer

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:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Carin Chance
Sonia Williams

Sunday Service: Tanya and
Danielle Smith

Wednesday Class: Marilyn Veasman

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Dover Church of Christ
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