

A Faithful Friend

by Tim Dooley

In Job 16:2 Job responds to his “friends” by telling them, “Miserable comforters are you all!”

Job was experiencing more trial and heartache than anyone could possibly bear and needed the comfort and compassion of a true friend, but what he got was anything but what he needed. He goes on to express his utter feeling of abandon and helplessness. He feels like he has not only been abandoned by his wife and friends, but also by God. Do we ever feel like this?

Peter said that as Christians we should have “compassion for one another; love as brothers,” and “be tenderhearted, be courteous” (1 Peter 3:8). Not every “friend” will be the kind of friend we need, but the Lord will! God had not abandoned Job. In fact, the Lord was protecting him even in the midst of his trials. We have the promise that Jesus will always be there for us. The Hebrew writer said, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). We need to be better comforters than Job’s friends were. “A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Yet a true friend will still speak the truth. In Proverbs 27:6 we are told, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

Understanding this truth Paul asked the church at Galatia, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16). As Christians we need to remember that standing for the truth does not necessitate a rude, ugly, or insensitive spirit. In fact, we are to always respond with love and kindness. One can certainly rebuke another in love, discipline with compassion, and counsel with sensitivity.

Because the Lord is a faithful friend we too need to be faithful to the Lord. James writes, “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). Thank God that we have a friend that will never forsake us. But to be a friend to Jesus one must be obedient to Him. Jesus said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14). The converse is simple and profound, “If you do not do the things which Jesus has commanded then you cannot be His friend.” And the one who is not a friend of the Lord is His enemy. Do you want to be an enemy of Jesus?

Be a true friend to someone today, be a friend of Jesus today. And be a faithful friend to the end!

THE POWER OF
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how can a single event
change eternity?

October 11-14

Sunday through Wednesday beginning at 6 pm

with Clint Brown, Rick Brumback, BJ Clarke
Steve Higginbotham, Wayne Jones,
David Shannon, and Michael Whitworth

westhillchurchofchrist.org

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Henry & Eula Parrish are in need of prayers.

Robby Thomas is home. Pray for his continued recovery.

Faye Hand will remain at Heritage Oaks Retirement Village for a couple more weeks.

Heather Lamb has returned home. Please, continue to pray for her.

Our Love and Sympathy are extended to the Moore family at the passing of Alvin Moore, brother of Bud Moore and Mollie Southard and brother-in-law of Ruth Moore. Pray for them at this time of sorrow.

Our Heartfelt Sympathies are also extended to the family of Ronald Tucker at his passing. Please, keep the Tucker, Walling and White families in your prayers as they grieve this loss.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Julie Dilbeck, Buster Hayes, Wanda Horner, Velma M^cDougald, Bud Moore, Jan Ross, Willie Winters, Carl Garner, Meagan Gould, Paul Hillier, Louise Tallent.

College Students: Savanna Bearden, Jason Dilbeck, Ty Gibson, Kate Haden, Kati Haffner, Wade Hall, Julie Hand, Jackie Howard, Kayla Howard, Jamie Humann, Corey M^cDougald, Emory M^cDougald, Kaylee Nicholson, Steely Southard, Emily Stovall, and Corey Tackett.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Announcements

We Rejoice that Billy Stephens was baptized into Christ Wednesday evening after services. Welcome!

“Dear Christian Family, Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, and visits during Robby’s stay in the hospital. We are truly blessed to be in a church family with so many wonderful people.” In Christian Love, Robby, Teresa & Stayton Thomas

Kids for Christ Devo, today, 12:30 to 2:00 at Brent & Lanette Stewart’s house. Boys bring chips, girls bring cookies. Bring a big blanket to picnic on.

High School Open Door Thursday at the Myers’ home, 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

Our Lectureship, “The Power of One,” is coming up next week, October 11-14. Invitation cards are available at the back of the auditorium and brochures are out at both east and west entrances.

Fall Youth Retreat at Peach Valley is coming up October 16-18. Registration forms are due today. See Cory for more details.

Area Wide Youth Rally at North Beaton, Saturday, October 24, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Please, let Cory know by Oct. 14, so we can RSVP with a head count.

Seniors (50+) Seminar: Finish Strong with Jeff Jenkins, Monday, November 9th at 7:00 PM.

Birthdays This Week

October 5 - Deylon Drain

October 7 - Joanne Newton, Darwin Thomas

October 8 - Robert Bess

October 9 - Malvinee Jett

October 10 - Betty Jo Striplin

Next Week’s Adult Class

Lectureship: Power of One Body - Rick Brumback

Records for September 27, 2015

Bible Class	171
AM Worship.....	260
PM Worship	138
Wednesday	176
Contribution	\$8,209.17

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Cory Myers
Opening Prayer	Darwin Thomas
Communion Leader	Don Ivy
Communion Servers	
Tyler Baumgartner	Wade Braly
Millard Dowdle	Joe Glass
Ken Green	David Mahoney
Buck Murphy	Brody Owens
Andy Parrish	Kyle Slaughter
Gene Steinkraus	Brent Stewart
Bronny Watson	
Closing Prayer	Gene Steinkraus
Nursery	Sheri Bayes & Brenda Sosa
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	James Horn
PM Closing Prayer	Hank Jett
Wed. Song Leader	Brody Owens
Wed. Devotional	Greg Olsen
Oct. Contact Elder	Percell Milton - 903.673.1819