

Laying Life Down
By Travis Main

Jesus speaking to the Pharisees in John 10:17-18 stated: *“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”* The conversation surrounded the fact that Jesus came into the world as a shepherd and savior. As such, He would lay His life down for His sheep, those faithful to God (John 10:4). Unlike a normal Shepherd, Jesus stands out because of his authority over death. He could give up his life and yet, take it again.

The faithful of God do not have the power to take up their lives after death as Jesus did, however, they do have the power to lay down their lives so their Shepherd can lift them up. Jesus established man must lose his life to gain it in Matthew 16:24-25, *“... If any one wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.”* Accordingly, the apostle Paul stated in Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”*

It is apparent from the passages above that there are two lives being discussed. The first life is the ending of the physical life which all men experience. The second life being laid down is the sinful life of a man. As sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd and follow, the laying down of a sinful life is submission to Jesus. Jesus has the authority to lift up man from both deaths, but man must make the choice to lay down the second.

Paul’s description of the life in which he had been lifted up in Christ was characterized as one in which Christ lived in him. When Paul addresses the Romans he describes the laying down of the sinful life. *“...How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:2-4) He further gives direction for that new life in Colossians 3:1-4, *“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”*

The choice of the faithful to lay aside a sinful life and seek things which are above (Philippians 4:8) provides the hope of promise. The promise is that the Jesus the Good Shepherd will lift the physical body of man up when He returns in the clouds (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	April 9, 2023 AM	April 9, 2023 PM	April 16, 2022 AM
Greeter	Jerry Thompson	Jason Bang	Dustin DeSarro
Announcements	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Jason Bang	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Jerry Thompson
Scripture Reading	Owen Whittington	Rick Ferris	Duane Kemp
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Seth Arrell	Chris McGiffin	Jason Bang

Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. Our last contribution was \$1,050.00. If you want to contribute, mark it as “DRF” or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of June.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Waylon Wilson 4/9
- Seth Arrell 4/11
- Chelsea Wilson 4/14
- Laylah Thompson 4/16
- Jaxson Shaffer 4/19
- Cory Clark 4/24
- Isajah Rohr 4/28

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Happy Anniversary!

- Greg & Michelle Buckingham 4/14*
- Tim & Dianna Bang 4/30*

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Men’s Meeting April 15th @ 9am

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*Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort
Thursday, April 27th @ 6:45pm*

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This year’s Family Campout at the Thompson’s is scheduled for May 5th-6th.

More details to come...

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Ladies you are invited to a Ladies/Mother/Daughter Tea

May 13th at 11:30 am

Mark your calendars and watch for more details!

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Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

This week's Bible Verse

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise if your own opinion.” Romans 12:17

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Lord's Supper Reflection

To Bear Our Grievs and Carry Our Sorrows

“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.” Isaiah 53:3-4

Offering Meditation

Your Gift to God is to Offer Your Best

“Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,” Genesis 4:4

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - Parkinson's
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
- *Sally Westover (Carrie Thompson's mom) - health
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision and dementia
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Caroline Stine - health
- *Phil Garber (friend of Tim Bang) - recovering from heart valve replacement surgery
- *Josiah (Alena Brown's brother) - has heart issues
- *Jonie Pettit (Sharon DeSarro's grandmother) - is home recovering from surgery after her fall
- *Rosalee Yoder - neck/shoulder

- *Lance Welson (DeSarro's neighbor) - dealing with cancer
- *John Rush (Marjorie Seiber's son-in-law) - has tremors and recently had surgery to help
- *Tim Petty (friend of Duane Kemp) - having Bible studies with Duane & dealing with complications of diabetes
- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - has an upcoming PET scan and needing to get blood sugar levels down for that
- *Allen Woodward (brother at Cassel Hills Church of Christ) - has cancer
- *Cathy Degarma (friend of McGiffins) - dealing with dementia

How can we be praying for YOU?

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Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, April 2

Bible Classes 40
 AM Attendance 65
 PM Attendance 35

Wednesday, April 5

Bible Classes 22
 Contribution \$4,041.00

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



April 9, 2023

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!
 If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please
 take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.