



Lomax Online Bulletin

May 10th, 2020

Elders: Danny Spears, John Eglinton, Rick Morrow, Jeff Dye, Mike Parker

Ministers: Donnie Debord, Robert Pierce, Jeff Spears, Malcolm George

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Announcements:

Online service 10AM Sundays, 7PM Wednesdays & 10AM Primetimers
Class on Facebook

Contributions can be mailed to Lomax Church of Christ, PO Box 33 or made online (Lomaxchurch.com/give).

Congratulations to Lauren and Billy Reese on the birth of their son Liam Grayson Reese at 10:29 pm on 5/7/2020. He is 6 pounds 6 ounces and 19 inches long.

Meditations from Malcolm:

One of my favorite verses for this week is Proverbs 31:10-31. It begins with "Who can find a virtuous woman?" However, the key verse is 30. This verse shows that such a woman fears the Lord. We should pray for her and express our love for her as we have opportunity. With this being Mother's Day, we have this opportunity to say thank you for mothers. Thanks again to Boo for helping with the Primetimers.

"We count everyone, because everyone counts." "The son does always shine at Lomax."

Prayer Requests:

Spencer Clark, son of Adam & Maranda Clark, is Lewis County sixth grader who has bone cancer and will have thirty weeks of chemo treatments and two surgeries

Gene Durham had a stay in hospital and now is in a local nursing home

Roy Shannon from Brushy congregation has a broken hip and is in the hospital. This is David Shannon's dad. David is president of Freed-Hardeman University.

Sympathy to family of **Joe Churchwell**, a local business owner.

Tina Spears Gaither, daughter of Janie Spears, is not doing well, and hospice has been called.

Michael Gray has returned home from the nursing home.

Nell Bunch is in the hospital with congestive heart failure.

Sandra Thompson's niece in Perry County passed away Friday from a reaction to a shot.

Verlin George has possible bone fractures in her back and is in a lot of pain.

Calling on the Name of the Lord—Our Father by Donnie Debord

God's people are honored with the privilege of calling God our Father. In Isaiah 63 the prophet called on God to act based upon this fatherly relationship. Isaiah said, “For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us; and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer of old is your name” (Is. 63:16). Like a child in danger, Isaiah led God’s people to run to their Father for safety. God, who is unchangeable in his perfections and strength, provides Fatherly care for his people. In the biblical worldview, the father was the primary human source of care and security for his family. The father was expected to provide safety for his family. God, our Father in Heaven, was the ultimate expression of this relationship. God the Father provides safety. Isaiah saw the people’s lives as dependent upon their heavenly Father. Those who were disposed and not blessed with a governing law were those who were not God’s children. When the Israelites suffered discipline from God and were cut off from his blessings, Isaiah said, “We have become like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by your name” (Is. 63:19). God, our Father, provides safety for his children. This safety is seen as the Father provides life, love, truth, and confidence.

As our Father, God provides life. God provides life because he has life in himself. Nothing caused God to exist. Everything and everyone who exists depends upon God as the giver of life. We call God’s self-existence divine aseity. You may never have heard this word before, but it is a special word. God alone has aseity. Aseity leads us to the infinite perfections of God which lead us to be in awe of God and to

revere God. This aseity is also what leads us to trust God completely as our Father. He does not depend on anyone or anything. Jesus taught his doctrine when he said, “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself” (Jn. 5:26).

Since God, who exists by virtue of himself, is our Father we can be confident he will provide safety for his people. The Psalmist said, “They rejoice in your name all day long, and they are exalted by your righteousness” (Ps. 89:16 CSB). Jesus said, “This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ” (Jn. 17:4 CSB). This knowledge of God isn’t just know that there is a God. This knowledge of God is to be in relationship with God. It is to be in a father-child relationship with the Father. This relationship—this knowledge—is life itself. It is the source of life, the purpose of life, and the only hope of life.

To provide life is to provide everything every creature needs. As our Father, God provides us with his own love. “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God; and so we are” (1 Jn. 3:1). “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whomever loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 Jn. 4:7). Love is one of our greatest needs. God, who is the infinite source of all goodness, freely and eternally sat his love on us. His grace, because of his love was given us his people “in Christ Jesus before the ages began” (2 Tim. 1:9).

God, our Father, also provides us with truth because he is the Father. Sometimes, we fathers will say “because I said so.” If God were to say, “because I said so,” he would not just be tired of our questions. He would be revealing something that corresponds to reality which is

completely determined by his perfections. God is truth (Jn. 14:6). Earthly fathers are important for showing their children how to live and what life is all about. Our heavenly Father not only shows us those things, he determines those things by his own existence. Our Father provides also confidence for his children. God's people can be confident in their Father's care, their Father's ability to provide, and the future their Father has promised. All these things depend on the perfect and infinite Father.

When We Call God Father:

1. When we call God Father, we confess our total dependence on him for our existence. "In him we live and move and have our being." List at least five ways this dependence on God as Father relieves your anxieties.
2. When we call God Father, we remind ourselves of the authority higher than ourselves. We are responsible for our lives before him. How does that reality motivate you? How does that reality shape your view of human evil? Would you want to worship a god who did not punish evildoers?
3. When we call God Father, we claim to be a part of his family. This family relationship is only possible because of Christ's sacrifice. Have we been born again into God's family? Do we live before him with fear (1 Peter 1:17)?