

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 16, 2018

My dear Friends:

As I'm writing this morning (Thursday), our Sam is packing up his car to move back to Starkville for his junior year at Mississippi State. Liz will follow him on Saturday. Sam is moving into his first apartment after living the past two years on campus. I'm certain that his mother has equipped him to feed himself, at least better than my mom did. The year I lived in an apartment prior to getting married, I gained 15 pounds from eating out all the time. The only time I tried to do something with hamburger meat, I tried to form the entire pound of meat into hamburger patties. When that failed, I threw all the meat into the frying pan, cooked it, ate it (with ketchup), and endured a stomach ache that evening. Last time I tried that. To this day. I'm sure Sam is better than that.

When the kids go back to school, it signals the end of summer—at least it does to me. To be sure, we won't feel fall until late October in these parts. And yet, already the leaves on our tree in the front yard are falling. Tomorrow night is the first high school varsity football games; Labor Day weekend the college football schedule starts. All of it reminds me we are in the process of change and transition—and really are all the time. Nature itself tells us this; the calendar confirms it. Our children grow from their first days of school (I love seeing all your pictures on social media of your little ones heading off for the first time) to college and marriage and their children.

In those moments when we feel that change, those are the moments we need to know we aren't alone in this vast cosmos but that Christ is near to us, that God is abiding with us. One of our favorite hymns puts it this way:

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide me with me.*

To know that the God who does not change and who has shown himself glorious, beautiful, excellent in Jesus—to know that he is with us, that we aren't alone, that this eternity in our hearts means we were made for more than change and decay: that gives us hope, sustains us in these times, feeds our hearts and our souls. I know that encourages me—I trust it does you as well.

Please remember—this Sunday at 10:00 a.m., we have our congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers and hearing ministry reports; and then, at 6:00 p.m., Sunday Evening Praise returns. Looking forward to the Lord's Day together!

In the grip of God's grace,



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