

My Best Friend

Submitted by: Floyd Hoskinson, Sr.
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Looking back over my seventy years of life I recall that I had a great number of friends. In high school I was active in sports. Everybody likes to be a friend of the “jocks.” But there is only one “friend” from my childhood who stands out in my memory. I walked about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to elementary school. When I was ten years old I was a member of the school crossing patrol. My large golden chow dog, Buddy, always walked with me to the school crossing and waited with me while I directed the children when to cross. When I was done with my patrol duties and went into the school, Buddy would go home. On one particular day Buddy walked into the road and was struck by a car. He lay helplessly alongside the road. I was too small to carry him for help and was in a quandary as to what I could do. My friend hurried over to help me carry my injured dog over to the school where my parents picked him up and took him to a veterinarian. Buddy soon recovered.

But I have never forgotten how my friend came to my aid. In the years since then I have had many other friends but none like my ‘best friend and buddy’, my wife of 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, Willa.

However, when I was fifteen years old I found a true friend whom I would like to introduce to you. He was baptized by his cousin, John, in the Jordan River. He taught, healed the lame, and gave sight to the blind. On one occasion during his teaching he paused to feed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. He was whipped, spat upon, and hanged upon a cross between two thieves to pay for our sins.

As I stand in the sanctuary and look at the stained glass window I see that my friend, Jesus, has his hands outstretched in welcome. I can hear him say, “Come unto me, all ye who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” And the position of his hands reminds me that he urged his disciples to allow the little children to come unto him for of such is the kingdom of heaven. We who are his children can be so thankful that he wraps his arms around us and helps us carry our burdens, no matter how great. My prayer is that He will be your best friend for He makes us all a blessing to others.

No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends. John 15:13

Point to Ponder: Jesus is our friend forever when our heart is full of love for Him and others.