

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

June 28, 2009

“As A Jewel Of Gold In A Swine’s Snout”

By Greg Litmer

I don't know much about farming or raising livestock of any kind, but I have on occasion seen pigs with a metal ring in their noses. Right next to a plot of land that my father-in-law used to own there lived a man who raised pigs, and I enjoyed watching them. I understand that pigs use their noses to dig or to root up things. I understand that they also find their noses to be awfully convenient when it comes to digging out a place in the mud and mire where they can wallow. But because some of them become a little too handy at rooting under a fence and getting out, sometimes the owner will “ring” them, put a metal ring in their noses to prevent them from doing that. Seeing those “ringed” pigs reminded me of a verse in Proverbs.

Proverbs 11:22 says, **“As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”** Down in the country it wouldn't be all that unusual to see a ringed pig, but it would be very out of the ordinary to see a “jewel of gold” in the nose of a pig. They just do not go together, it would be incongruous, a word that fitly describes such a circumstance and is exactly the point that Solomon was making. According to *Webster’s New Unabridged Dictionary*, “incongruous” means, “out of keeping or place, inappropriate; unbecoming; not harmonious in character, inconsistent.” That perfectly describes a “jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”

Just think of some of the things that are as inappropriate and out of place for a Christian as a gold ring in the nose of a pig. In Ephesians 4:29 Paul wrote, **“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”** To edify means to build up. So, simply put, anything other than that which is righteous and pure and which is meant to build up the one who hears is not harmonious in character. It is like a “jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”

Consider another passage with me. In Luke 6:46 our Lord asked, **“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?”** That is a real good question. Over and over again the Bible indicates that a mark of a true and sincere follower of Jesus is obedience. One of the truly wondrous things

about this is that Jesus showed us how. In Hebrews 5:8-9 we are told concerning our Lord, **“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”** So, for any person to say that he or she is a Christian and purposely to choose not to obey certain, or any, of the commands of the Lord is just inappropriate, just as incongruous and out of character for a child of God, as is a gold ring stuck in the snout of a pig.

Surely we can all see further possible applications of this principle. I don’t want any part of my life to be so out of harmony with the life the Lord expects of His people that it would resemble a “jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.”

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Remember Sister Kimberlin.</p> <p>Sharon Tirey continues her treatments for cancer.</p> <p>Keep Will Markem in mind.</p> <p>Remember Kristy Kidd in her pregnancy.</p> <p>Remember Kristen Osterling’s unborn baby.</p> <p>Remember David Blakeman and his health concerns.</p> <p>Rachel Knollman is not waiting to get through her first trimester so that she can go to Ann Arbor and take some tests to see if the cancer has spread into any lymph nodes.</p> <p>Ruben Amador’s daughter, Pamela Clayton, is struggling mightily with colon cancer. They are not sure how they intend to treat it.</p>	<p>Remember that the prayer service will be held Friday, July 10 (2nd Friday of the month) at 7:30 p.m. There is a box in the back in which you may leave your prayer requests.</p> <p>The informational meeting will be this afternoon. Please make your plans to attend.</p> <p>Remember the Bible Summer Series which will be conducted by Casey Head begins July 19 and will run through the 24. Please make your plans now to attend and to have your children attend as well.</p> <p>We have had several of our members away on vacation over the past couple of weeks. This will continue through the next month and probably into August. Let’s keep all of our travelers in our prayers.</p>

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