

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

September 14, 2008

What is Important?

Throughout life the average human experiences a number of changes in what is important to him or to her. At certain stages in life certain things are of all consuming importance that later as maturity increases are pushed aside by other things that become the all-consuming focus of total attention. This parade of changes happens to every normal living organism but especially to humans. We understand this to be the normal path of the human experience on planet earth as we slowly grow to maturity.

All of the outstanding athletes that performed such amazing feats of physical prowess once had as their all consuming passion flailing their tiny arms and legs in instinct driven exercises that would build in their immature body's strength and coordination. After they did that for a while they learned to roll over, eventually to crawl and to move forward stage after stage toward whatever lay before them.

The apostle Paul referred to that journey which he himself had also made.

1Corinthians 13: 11 *"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."*

It is normal for a child to think as a child and to understand as a child. Wise adults expect and accept that children will act and think as children, but wise adults also assist the young in reaching more mature levels; understanding that childhood is a means not an end.

Maturity is a worthy goal to be striven for. This world is able to function as well as it does, in part, because of mature minded people, who conscientiously think, plan and do the things that allow the world to function well.

Part of maturing is **taking responsibility for self and for others**. As a young wife once described it, *"I never knew how plastic forks got to picnics until after I married and got away from home."* Some of the oncoming generation will come to physical maturity still thinking like babies. They will have no idea **how anything works**. **Left to that way of thinking nothing will work**. For things on this earth to work properly somebody has to be mature minded enough to **consider**, to **understand how they ought to work when they are working properly**, and **see to it that they do work properly**.

It has always been true that when the oncoming generations come to physical maturity and go away from home to a job or to school, **some mature thinking has to happen or the endeavor will not succeed**. Often the immature drop out of school, church or job when they leave home because **they will not replace the mature thinking of their parents with mature thinking of their own**. They do not put away their childish dependence on the mature guidance of their parents and as a result their life crashes into a meaningless and hopeless snarl of unwise choices in which they waste themselves and whatever assets they have.

Meaningful lives, families, churches, businesses, governments, nations and societies are meaningful because of the maturity and wisdom of individuals. People who will **take the responsibility to learn right and to do right** can expect to see good things happen. **People are not born knowing how to think anymore than they are born knowing how to run**. The inspired word of God, the Holy Bible, **is the Creator's textbook on how to think properly at every level of maturity**. According to God at the first levels of thinking **you obey parents**.

Ephesians 6:1 *"Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."*

At all levels of thinking you obey God.

Ecclesiastes 12: 13 *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.** 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil."*

One of the problems that some see in being responsible and mature is that the biography of a wise and mature person generally makes boring reading. Exciting tales of calamity and suspense usually do not result from thoughtful, mature, wise choices. A person that comes to school determined to **study hard, do right, get a degree and go on to greater and more fulfilling things generally does**. A person that comes to school determined to live in ways of which **their parents would not approve will frequently crash, usually because of the immature choices they make**. Immaturity is often so preoccupied with its frustration at a rule that immaturity does not delve the "why" that is behind the rule and **the good things that are made available by following the rule**. That is one of the characteristics of childish thinking. Each generation frets, at least to some extent, at the rules of its parents and then if it survives to have children of its own, makes the same rules for its own children that in immaturity it fretted about its own parents making for it.

Something good happens between generations when the children realize that their parents are humans, just like themselves, and the parents realize that the children are mature adults and both are happy with the knowledge. **That good thing most often happens in families that are, from generation to generation, driven in all stages by absolute faith in God and in God's inspired word. God's word tells us how to think right, and when we think right, good things can happen.**

Rules are made and followed in order to achieve consistently good results. If we do not follow the rules we will not get the benefits that we would if we followed the rules. When we are talking about the rules that God has made the benefit/obedience connection is an absolute. If we refuse to obey God, God is going to punish us. Here on earth God has allowed us the freedom to choose whether or not we will obey him but in eternity we will not have a choice of whether or not God punishes us for not obeying him. **The only wise choice for any human to make with regard to God is to get on good terms with God early and to stay on good terms with God forever.**

It is never wrong for the oncoming generations to reflect on why the older generations do what they do. However, in reflecting, it is well to remember that **the older have had longer to reflect on those questions than have the younger**. Judgements about changes need to be made with care lest some important point, **of which they knew and considered**, is missed in the deliberations and reflections of the younger. **It is not progress for me, if in my zeal to avoid rules and do it my way, I make mistakes that the former generations saw, wisely avoided and made the rules to help me avoid**. Sometimes people do not wish to believe it but it is nonetheless true that **certain ways of thinking have predictable results. In order to get desirable results read your Bible and start thinking like God has said he wants you to think. THE BENEFITS WILL ASTOUND YOU!**

Cause for Rejoicing and Thanksgiving

John Michael Siddles, the infant that in August needed a heart transplant has recovered completely and no longer needs a transplant. He is at home, doing well, and appears to be on his way to a normal life with his very own heart.

Although still having issues Jeffrey Howerton has made a swifter than expected recovery and is much improved.

Cheryl Spear and Helen Stephens, who are both recovering from the same kind of cancer, are also doing well.

Remember To Pray For

Dale England, suffering from leukemia and is not a Christian

Ella Wells, and her family

Debra Craig

Dallis and Alma Isaacs

Lorene Pagan

Freddie Ward

David and Chessie Harwell

Donna Caldwell

Mabel Greene

Tony Tyree

Ruth Brundige

Cindy Miller

Marlene Wood

Christie Ellis

Shirley Lewis

Brady Gibbons

Gail Hunter

Larry Flannery

Donnie Joseph

Cheryl Spear

Lanny Hiller

Charity and Abdiel Pallafox

Helen Stephens

Chris Handshoe

Chris and Jen Dooley

Jeffrey Howerton

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

Whatever is wrong I must not ever do

Whatever is right I must not fail to do

Revelation 2:10 "Be you faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life."

Revelation 2:11 "He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death."

Revelation 2:7 "To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

GREAT REWARDS FOR FAITH

Thoughts

God posted a notice in the New Testament having to do with salvation and people all over the earth claim that they cannot understand it.

It would be interesting to know what would happen to the ability to understand the terms of salvation if the reward was having some hugely wealthy person pay all of you debts for the rest of your life on earth.

If the notice posted said, "Believers who repent and are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will have all of their debts paid" who would not know what to do in order to claim the benefits?

It would be even more interesting to know how many of those who have trouble understanding God's inspired word would have the same problem if the notice posted by the rich person simply said, "All who obey Acts 2:38 will receive a major credit card on which all the bills will be paid for as long as you live on earth."

The things that the New Testament teaches about salvation are somewhat **hard to MISUNDERSTAND!**

Matthew 28: 19 "Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Mark 16: 15 "And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned."

Acts 2: 38 "Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

Acts 2: 41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [to them] about three thousand souls."

Acts 8: 12 "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 8: 13 "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip,"

Acts 8: 35 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached to him Jesus. 36 And as they went on [their] way, they came to a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, [here is] water; what does hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

Baptism in water for the remission of sins is the common experience of all Christians.

Romans 6: 3 "Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Galatians 3: 27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Baptism in water is the only baptism that is an act of faithful obedience to God. It is the "one baptism" of **Ephesians 4:5.**

Ephesians 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

HOW CAN I MISUNDERSTAND THAT?

Notes

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING
TODAY 3:00PM

REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL MEETING
FRANK WALTON
NOVEMBER 2-7

Who does good
if good people do not?

John 14: 15 "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Serving God is not a matter of
Your way or my way
Serving God is a matter of **God's way**

Isaiah 66: 5 "Hear the word of the LORD, you that tremble at his word:"

Matthew 13:3-23

The seed got

No place to start growing

No place to put down roots

No place to mature

A place of continued diligent care
The seed is the word of God and the ground is my heart

The human heart must be a place where the word of God starts to grow, puts down deep roots, comes to maturity and bears fruit because that is what God intended.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages

7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US
HELP GOD'S WORD GROW
LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT