

# The University Heights Messenger

June 5, 2011

## About Your Attendance

*These two articles are by Dee Bowman. The first is a very short, yet very direct article from a veteran proclaimer of God's Word.*

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, and rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in good fruit.

## Today Is Today

Jesus said in His mountain message, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34). What a telling statement. I've been thinking a lot lately about the value and beauty of a single day.

**Each day has its own sunrise, its own sunset.** No two are exactly alike. Every day is different, with its own weather, its own wind and temperature, its own warmth or lack of it. Every sunrise is special in its own way; so with every sunset. They are all similar, but no two are the same.

A new day is a resurrection of sorts, too. With each new day we are raised up to new

possibilities, new perspectives, new opportunities to serve and glorify God.

Sunsets serve a purpose, too. They remind us of what we did or didn't do that day. As the sun disappears each evening, we look for rest if we've used the day well. And it brings us little twinges of conscience if we didn't. If you're right with God, you can look forward to the sunset.

**Each day has its own thoughts.** The thoughts that accompany each new day relate directly to neither yesterday or tomorrow; they belong peculiarly to today. You can't do tomorrow's thinking today. Sure, we can plan for tomorrow; but the thought we used to do so is today's thought, not tomorrow's. And we can relate back to yesterday in our mind, but the very thoughts that we used are today's thoughts, not yesterday's. "As a man thinks in his heart so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

Each new day brings circumstances and new possibilities. Circumstances have to be handled. So do possibilities. We have to choose every day what we'll do with them. That means we have to meditate, contemplate, discriminate, then decide on what actions we'll will take about what's happening around us. Oh, we can put off thinking about it, but procrastination seldom serves anybody well, and we'll likely be sorry if we put it off till later.

Good and evil thoughts battle one another every day. We all have some of both. We have to choose which we will allow residency in our mind. "...give no place to the devil," Paul said in Ephesians 4:27. Evil thoughts are going to race through our mind every day--count on it--but we don't have to give them a place to stay,

**Each day has its own joy and sadness.** Information--both good and bad--travels quickly these days. And each day we'll find some good news and some bad, some joy and some sadness. Both, it seems to me, are necessary to the good life. The joy gives us encouragement and bring us pleasure. Sadness brings us to a realization of who and where we are, and the fragileness of time. Just

as joy encourages and makes our disposition sanguine, so sadness brings us stamina, teaches us patience, and keeps us courageous as we struggle though the vicissitudes of life.

Solomon said, “in the day of prosperity, be joyful, but in the day of adversity, consider” (Ecclesiastes 7:14). There is a day of prosperity and a day of adversity. The actions for each are recommended. When the day is good we should rejoice and be thankful; when it is not, we should give due consideration to the fragileness of life. Furthermore, we are told by the wise man, “Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other...” If we use each day to serve God, the adversity will be of as much benefit as will the joy. That’s if you serve God.

**Each day is a gift from God.** Every one of them lasts 24 hours. It’s up to us what we do with them. We can use them to glorify Him, or we can waste them with inordinate pleasures, worldly ambitions, and illicit thoughts. It is up to each one to decide what this 24 hours will mean in his life. And no matter how many of those 24 hours we still have, each one is its own, and each one will be used as we see fit to use it.

“Today, if you will hear His voice...” (Psalm 95:7).

### **IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

Let’s keep **Jenilee Daniels** and **Jackie Litmer** in our thoughts and prayers as they progress throughout their pregnancies. Let’s also keep those unborn little one’s in our prayers as well!

**Charlene Antle** continues to need our prayers as the direction of her treatments will soon be determined.

**Keia Burton** (Ann Chrusciel’s great-niece) is pregnant and has been diagnosed with placenta previa, which can be a life-threatening condition. Let us pray for her and the baby.

Our members: **Jeff Howerton, Janice Parsons, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Edith Tirey, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Linda Hill, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Tom Curtis, Courtney and Aubree Reeves, Tabetha Lynn, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein**

### **NOTE**

The congregational meeting will be next Sunday (12th).

### **BIBLE READING SCHEDULE**

**Sun:** Judg 19-21, Ps 115, 1 Cor 8-9

**Mon:** Ruth 1, Ps 116, 1 Cor 10

**Tue:** Ruth 2-4, Ps 117, 1 Cor 11

**Wed:** 1 Sam 1-2, Ps 118, 1 Cor 12-13

**Thu:** 1 Sam 3-5, Ps 119:1-8, 1 Cor 14

**Fri:** 1 Sam 6-8, Ps 119:9-16, 1 Cor 15-16

**Sat:** 1 Sam 9-10, Ps 119:17-24, 2 Cor 1-2

### **SERMON TOPICS:**

Sunday AM. The central message of the Bible 7 (conclusion)  
(Galatians 3:26-27))

Sunday PM. “The endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures”  
(Romans 15:4)

**Elders:** David Collins, Garry Banks, John Thompson