

In need of prayers

Charlene Antle remains in the hospital. She is still fighting the infection in her blood. She will see the cardiologist when she leaves the hospital.

Aiden Powell, the five-year-old son of a friend of Jackie's brother (Joseph Miller), is scheduled to have open-heart surgery in the near future.

In need of regular prayers

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Janice Parsons, Glenn Kimberlin

Others: Edith Tirey, Lala Whitson, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Linda Hill, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein

Weekly Reading

Su	1 Chron 24-25, Ps 14, Matt 16-17
M	1 Chron 26-27, Ps 15, Matt 18
T	1 Chron 28-29, Ps 16, Matt 19
W	2 Chron 1, Ps 17, Matt 20
Th	2 Chron 2-4, Ps 18:1-24, Matt 21
F	2 Chron 5-6, Ps 18:25-50, Matt 22
Sa	2 Chron 7-9, Ps 19:1-6, Matt 23

University Heights Messenger

August 14, 2011

Volume 3 Number 9

Today's sermon topics

AM Our Attitudes toward the work of the church

PM For what is the sinner to pray?

Today's Scripture Reading

AM Matthew 2:1-12

PM Matthew 2:13-23

There will be a meeting for the congregation at 5.

Times of worship

Sunday AM

Bible study 9:45
Worship service 10:45

Sunday PM

Worship service 6

Wednesday PM

Bible study and worship 7:30

First and Third Friday's

7:30 PM

There's A Lesson Here!

"My Son..."

An unknown author wrote, "Son, you outgrow my lap, but never my heart." When a father addresses his son to impart wisdom and instruction, he will likely begin with "my son" or some equivalent salutation. Consider the depth of feeling in all its facets contained in the words "my son." On the one hand there is intense love and joy. Hope for the future of his son fills the father's mind. He is ready and willing to sacrifice to give his son every possible advantage. On the other hand, there is trepidation, anxiety, worry, and even fear regarding the son's future. When the son rejects the wisdom imparted to him by his father, that which follows "my son..." communicates the father's longings and pleas for the son to heed

his father's wisdom. This is especially so when the wisdom is of a spiritual nature.

In reading and studying the Proverbs one cannot help being impressed with the love of a father for his son. The father in Proverbs makes every effort to ensure his son is fully equipped and armed with every bit of wisdom the father has gained through personal experience and a close relationship with God. There are lessons here for sons if they will just recognize their father's wisdom and heed it. Consider the following:

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." (Proverbs 1:8)

"My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:1-5)

"Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, 'Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live.'" (Proverbs 4:1-4)

"Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in paths of uprightness." (Proverbs 4:10-11)

"My son, keep your father's commandments, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down they will watch over you; and when you wake they will talk with you." (Proverbs 6:20-22)

"My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart." (Proverbs 7:1-3)

These are spiritually critical lessons here, My Son.

The Elders

Finding The Source Of The Problem

Thursday afternoon there was a small puddle of water on the tiles at the base of our steps in the basement. I thought that one of the boys had spilled his drink so I just ran a towel over it and didn't give it another thought. Two hours later I passed by the same area to find a much larger puddle of water. I knew there was a problem because the boys had not been over there in that time and Jackie *usually* cleans up her spills (kidding!).

The next hour saw me checking everywhere to find the source of the leak. After pulling up tiles, checking the base of toilets, checking both showers, and checking all the sink pipes, we were able to find that it was a draining issue with the condensation from the air conditioner. Fortunately, it's going to be a fairly easy fix. However, without finding the *source* of that water the problem could never be remedied.

The same thing is true in our spiritual lives. When a person begins to forsake the assembly, or becomes cold and distant with their brethren, or begins only halfheartedly participating in the worship, or stops praying, or stops contacting the sick, then they are displaying *symptoms* of spiritual sickness. It doesn't do much good to work on the symptoms while ignoring the *source* of the problem.

To the church at Ephesus our Lord said, "*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first...*" (Revelation 2:4-5a). To the church at Sardis He said, "*I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God*" (Revelation 3:1-2). To the church at Laodicea Jesus said, "*I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich...*" (Revelation 3:15-18a).

In each case Jesus pointed to the symptoms to show that a deeper problem existed. The church at Ephesus had left her first love, but how and why? The brethren in Sardis thought they were a living, active church but Jesus said that they were really dead. How and why was that the case? The saints in Laodicea thought they were rich and in need of nothing. Jesus said that they were really wretched and poor. How and why were they so wrong in their estimation of themselves? Jesus did not come right out and say, did He? He pointed them to the symptoms that proved the existence of spiritual sickness. He required *them* to thoroughly search their souls, find the source of their spiritual problems, and fix them through repentance. He requires the same of us. Do we see symptoms? Let us find the source of the problem and appeal to the Great Physician through humble repentance to be cured! AL

Gospel plan of salvation: Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), Believe Jesus Christ (John 3:16), Repent of sin (Luke 13:3), Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9), Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), Live worthy of a Christian (Ephesians 4:1)

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