

University Heights Messenger

Volume 3--Number 16

October 2, 2011

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:19)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Recent Additions:

Wayde Miller is scheduled to meet with the surgeon about his shoulder this week.

Glen Kimberlin is recovering from the removal of a skin lesion. As always, she appreciates calls and cards.

Standing List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin

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

Reminder: If you wish to have someone added to the prayer list please submit his or her name and condition to me *in writing*. Thanks.

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Job 35-36, Ps 59, Luke 23
Mon: Job 37-38, Ps 60, Luke 24
Tue: Job 39-40, Ps 61, John 1
Wed: Job 41-42, Ps 62, John 2
Thu: Prov 1-2, Ps 63, John 3
Fri: Prov 3-4, Ps 64, John 4
Sat: Prov 5-6, Ps 65, John 5

LEADERSHIP

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Garry Banks	Troy Antle
David Collins	Richard Brundige
John Thompson	Neal Erickson
	Adam Litmer
<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan
Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons
	Pat Seabolt
	Matt Thompson

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM
1st Fri. of Month
Singing: 7:30 PM
3rd Fri. of Month
Devotional: 7:00 PM
(Ask for location)

There's A Lesson Here...

God began the process of creation with these words: "Let there be light." Dividing the light from the darkness, God called the light Day and the darkness Night. Thus time came into existence and it will continue until Jesus returns and brings an end to our physical world.

Time is one of the great operating facts of the physical world. After the flood God made a covenant with Noah. The basis, or foundation, of this covenant is time. God said to Noah, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." Time is the great regulator of the universe, and in many, many ways we are bound by its limits. We recognize that some animals are nocturnal and some are diurnal. We feel the effects of jet lag when we pass through too many time zones too rapidly. We govern our lives in terms of time: dinnertime, lunchtime, bedtime, work time, playtime. We speak in terms of time: I don't have time; take time to smell the roses. We measure time even down to the nanosecond; we punch time clocks and wear time pieces on our wrists. We have clock radios on our nightstands; digital readouts at the bottom of our computer screens and on our microwave ovens and other kitchen appliances. Hardly a second passes outside of our consciousness of time.

The Bible is very clear as to what our attitude should be towards time. "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16) How might we alter our priorities were we always to make the best use of our time? Do you think we would spend less time indulging our physical wants and desires and more time thinking about things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise? (Philippians 4:8) Given the fact that there is an almost infinite variety of ways available to use our time and the fact that time is in limited supply, life really is a matter of setting priorities. Our priorities will show whether we are making the best use of our time.

We sing a song about time. It is entitled "Take Time to be Holy." The very title of the song tells us what constitutes making the best use of our time, i.e. being holy. The second verse begins, "Take time to be holy, the world rushes on." We can allow ourselves to be caught up in the frantic pace of the world and let it select our priorities for us, or we can use our time to be holy. The rest of the song is easily divided into two parts, First, we sing phrases that

**There will be an
Elders/Deacons
Meeting today at 4:30.**

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identify uses of our time in the pursuit of holiness. “Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always, and feed on His word; Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone; Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessings to seek”. Second, we sing phrases that identify the blessings that result when we take the time to be holy. “Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul; each tho’t and each motive beneath His control; Abiding in Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct His likeness to shall see; thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shall be fitted for service above.”

May we heed the lesson of making the best use of our time. The Elders

Unreasonable? Unfair? Not To Us!

It seems that more and more these days Christians are deciding that certain expectations God and their brethren have for them are unreasonable. For instance, it is unreasonable for God or brethren to expect a working, parenting Christian to attend each night of a gospel meeting even if they could do so by making minor sacrifices and experiencing slight inconveniences.

It is unreasonable for God or brethren to expect a vacationing Christian family to locate a faithful group of Christians *before* they travel to the area and then to attend each service just as they would back home while not on vacation.

It is unreasonable for God or brethren to expect Christian parents to upset a child by refusing to allow them to compete in athletics if doing so would require them to miss worship services. After all, the coach says that if they miss practices they won’t play in the games.

It is unreasonable for God or brethren to expect *all* members of a congregation who are physically able to schedule all their other activities *around* an elder determined workday at the building if at all possible. I suppose we could add to this list *ad nauseum* if we so desired.

According to the *Oxford American Dictionary*, the second definition of the word “unreasonable” is “*beyond the limits of acceptability or fairness.*” I find that interesting and it causes me to consider some other things that, when you get right down to it, just aren’t reasonable or fair.

It is unreasonable, unfair, that God would plan for sinful man’s salvation *before* He had ever created him. Acts 2:22-23 says, “*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*” 1 Peter 1:1-2 says, “*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for the sprinkling of his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*” Before God ever created us He was planning for the mess we would cause ourselves through sin. From God’s perspective, where’s the reasonableness, the *fairness*, in that?

It is unreasonable, unfair, that the price God had to pay for our salvation was the death of His only Son. Ephesians 2:4-7 says, “*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the*

heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Because He knew beforehand that you and I would be filthy, disgusting sinners, God sent His Son into the world to take our place upon the cross and to die for our sins. From God’s perspective, where is the reasonableness, the *fairness*, in that?

It is unreasonable, unfair, that you and I are not suffering in hell *right now*. As if it were not enough for God to provide initial forgiveness when one becomes a Christian, He chose to establish a *second* law of pardon that in fact provides the Christian innumerable pardons during his life as he continues to repent of sin. 1 John 1:8-2:2 says, “*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*” We Christians keep on sinning and He keeps on forgiving as we repent. *Why?* Didn’t our initial forgiveness cost Him enough? Owed nothing but torment, why does He love us so much that He places salvation and forgiveness constantly before our eyes? From God’s perspective, where is the reasonableness, the *fairness*, in that?

Let’s return to where we began this article. Some Christians believe it is unreasonable, unfair, for them to be expected to attend each night of a gospel meeting. I disagree. It’s unreasonable, unfair, that God does not expect us to spend *every night* at the building worshipping Him. Some Christians believe that it is unreasonable, unfair, for them to be expected to find faithful brethren to worship with at each service on vacation. I disagree. It’s unreasonable, unfair, that God would bless us with the means to *ever* go on vacations to begin with because of our offenses against Him. Some Christians believe it is unreasonable, unfair, to upset a child by refusing to allow them to compete in athletics if it causes them to miss service. I disagree. It is unreasonable, unfair, that God does not demand the blood of our child just as our salvation demanded the blood of His. Some Christians believe it is unreasonable, unfair, that they be expected to schedule their activities around a congregational workday. I disagree. It is unreasonable, unfair, that God even provides us the opportunity to work for Him rather than casting us in hell as we deserve.

It is imperative for our eternal well being that we get our minds right and do it now. It is unfair to God that we are blessed as tremendously as we are. Let us thank Him daily that He does not deal with us on the basis of fairness and let us place Him in our lives right where He belongs—first in all things! AL

Today’s Sermon Topics

AM: The rich man and Lazarus--1

PM: The prodigal son--1

Today’s Scripture Reading

AM: Matthew 9:1-

PM: Matthew 9:18-