

University Heights Messenger

Volume 3--Number 18

October 16, 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:

Let us remember all the **children** of this congregation who are struggling with sickness. Let us also remember the parents who are caring for them.

Taylor Osterling and **Ciara McCrary** will be having surgery in the near future.

Standing List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin

Others: Edith Tirey, Glen Davis, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Wayde and 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: Prov 21-22, Ps 71, Jn 13
Mon: Prov 23-24, Ps 72, Jn 14
Tue: Prov 25-26, Ps 73, Jn 15
Wed: Prov 27-28, Ps 74, Jn 16
Thu: Prov 29-31, Ps 75, Jn 17
Fri: Eccl 1-3, Ps 76, Jn 18
Sat: Eccl 4-6, Ps 77, Jn 19

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
Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(Ask for location)

There's A Lesson Here...

Throughout history, mankind has always placed a high value on silver and gold. Not only have these two metals been used to exchange for goods and services, they have also been stored up for the purpose of accumulating great personal wealth. Silver and gold are seldom found by themselves in a useful condition. They must be mined and extracted from the materials in which they are embedded and then further refined to increase the purity to achieve maximum value.

Ezekiel compares Israel with the process of refining metals: And the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are dross of silver. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As one gathers silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into a furnace, to blow the fire on it in order to melt it, so I will gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will put you in and melt you. I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted in the midst of it. As silver is melted in a furnace, so you shall be melted in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the LORD; I have poured out my wrath upon you." (Ezekiel 22:17-22)

Proverbs 17:3 and 27:21 make identical statements regarding the refining of silver and gold. "The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold..." Both the crucible and the furnace were the containers that brought together the silver and gold in their natural states and the heat or fire necessary to separate out the precious metals from their impurities. But these two passages in Proverbs were not given by God to give us technical information on the ancient process of refining precious metals. It is the second half of each verse that teaches us something about our relationship with God.

"The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, **and the Lord tests hearts.**" (Proverbs 17:3) God wants us to be as pure as we can possibly be. He says, "...since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." {1 Peter 1:16) God's desire for His

**The home Bible study
begins this Friday (21)
at 7 at the Litmer's.
Syllabus in back.**

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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people to be holy was not a new thing when Peter was inspired to write it. Moses, likewise, urged God's people to purity. "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be **holy**, for **I** the LORD your God **am holy**." (Leviticus 19:2) So, God tests us with the intent to refine us, to purify us, to help us to become holy, so that we may be of the utmost value to Him.

"The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, **and a man is tested by his praise.**" (Proverbs 27:21) God tests us, attempts to purify us, by giving us opportunities to handle praise properly. We all like to be praised, to be recognized and applauded for the good things that we do. But, can we handle praise in such a way that we remain humble, seeking only to serve God? Or, do we continue on unseparated from the dross of the world, craving praise, manipulating people in order to get it, and making ourselves and all those around us miserable if we are not praised to the extent we deem necessary?

Consider these scriptures: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." (Romans 12:3) "So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:7)

The Elders

Observations From A False Alarm

Thursday night Jackie was admitted to Central Baptist for a few hours as she experienced false labor. As I sat there in a chair next to her bed several things were going through my head. Even as my mind was racing I was able to recognize a spiritual application to most of the coherent thoughts (and believe me when I tell you that many of them were not coherent at the time). Perhaps you may find them beneficial.

A consistent thought was that Hannah was not supposed to be here yet. Jackie and I are *supposed* to have about another month to prepare. We're *supposed* to have another month to hammer into the mind of the boys that a new addition is on the way who is not to be tackled, kicked, punched, pushed, or any of the other "physical" activities that little boys find so entertaining. We're *supposed* to have another month of peaceful sleep before nightly feedings and changing's come. We're *supposed* to have a November baby, not *another* October one. *We're supposed to have more time!*

James dealt with those who thought they had all the time in the world in James 4:13-15. "*Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will do this or that.'*" James is

specifically discussing the brevity of life yet the tenuousness of our plans is clearly found here as well. The plan is that Hannah will not join us apart from Jackie until November. That's what's *supposed* to happen. Yet even the best laid plans are subject to a Source much higher than us. Truly the Lord's will is the one that counts.

Another thought that raced through my mind was that another soul was about to enter my care. What a weighty thought! Paul spoke to fathers in Ephesians 6:4 and said, "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*" Hannah's tiny soul will be (IS!) worth more than all the riches of this world combined (Matthew 16:26). As her father I have a God-given responsibility to do all that I can to bring her up in the discipline of the Lord and through my example and instruction help instill in her heart of reverence and love for God. I tremble considering that task! What a responsibility we fathers have and I pray that each of us always takes it as seriously as we should!

As if it were playing on a loop, "Everything is about to change again," kept rolling through my mind. Less than six years ago I was unmarried and living in my hometown of Cincinnati. In that time I have married, moved to a different city, begun working with a different group of brethren, became a new home owner, and am about to have my *third* child. For the past six years my life has been one of almost constant change. Significant changes have also taken place among my family members in that time. Who among us has not experienced at least *some* change in the past six years?

Having said all of this, there is one part of my life that hasn't changed. The One controlling it has not and will not change. He said it Himself in Malachi 3:6. "*For I the Lord do not change...*". We're reminded in James 1:17, "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*" Do you not find that immensely comforting? "Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me!" Amen!

A great deal goes through a parents mind when a little one is on the way. This is especially true when the little one comes, or appears to be coming, a bit sooner than expected. As always, regardless of the circumstance, spiritual lessons abound. I hope that you found the ones that went through my mind helpful!

AL

Sermons:

AM The parable of the prodigal son—3
PM Blake Ratliff will be preaching

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 11:1-15
Matthew 11:16-30