

## 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:

Taylor Osterling (surgery in the new year), Ciara McCrary (cataract surgery September 25), Wayde Miller (shoulder surgery November 2)

### 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:** Eccl 7-9, Ps 78:1-39, Jn 20-21  
**Mon:** Eccl 10-12, Ps 78:40-72, Acts 1  
**Tue:** Song 1-4, Ps 79, Acts 2  
**Wed:** Song 5-8, Ps 80, Acts 3  
**Thu:** Isa 1, Ps 81, Acts 4  
**Fri:** Isa 2-4, Ps 82, Acts 5  
**Sat:** Isa 5-7, Ps 83, Acts 6

### LEADERSHIP

**ELDERS**  
Garry Banks  
David Collins  
John Thompson  
  
**EVANGELIST**  
Adam Litmer

**DEACONS**  
Troy Antle  
Richard Brundige  
Neal Erickson  
Adam Litmer  
Bill Morelan  
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)

# University Heights Messenger

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### **There's A Lesson Here...**

The Philistines were an idol worshipping people who loved war and who would plague Israel for hundreds of years. They were never destroyed during the conquest of Canaan. During the period of the judges, God would allow them to repeatedly dominate the Israelites, using them to punish His people when they stopped serving Him and succumbed to idolatry. It was not until the reign of King David that the power of the Philistines was finally broken.

When the Children of Israel left Egyptian bondage, God knew how vulnerable they would likely be to a war-like people such as the Philistines. "When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, '*Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt. But God led the people around by the way of the Red Sea.... And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*'" (Exodus 13:17-18, 21-22)

How comforted the Children of Israel must have felt every time they happened to gaze upon that pillar of cloud and that pillar of fire. What a magnificent reminder to them that God was ever present, guiding them and leading them in the way that was best for them. Even though the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire did not last forever, the Israelites should have realized that God's guidance and leadership did not depart with those two manifestations of His presence. Yet, the truth of the matter is that the one characteristic that best defines God's people of the Old Testament is their rejection of His guidance and leadership to do what they thought and determined to be best. They complained of any kind of hardship almost immediately upon departing Egypt; they distrusted God's promise to give them the land, listening to the negative report of the ten spies; they failed to destroy the Canaanites during the conquest period; they forgot God repeatedly during the time of the judges; they became dissatisfied having God as

**How often do you intend to pray this week? More than last?**  
**Philippians 4:6**

## **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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their king, clamoring for kings like the nations around them. Even then, with the possible exceptions of David and a handful of other "good" kings, their pattern of going their own way rather than God's way did not change.

Jeremiah prophesied for an extensive period of time leading up to, during, and immediately following the final destruction of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Today, we find a most relevant message in the statement God inspired Jeremiah to make in chapter 10, verse 23. "*I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.*" What we may miss is that this statement comes near the end of a message God gave, through Jeremiah, to His idol-worshipping people. God said, "*Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak. They have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.... Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.... My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are not; there is no one to spread my tent again and to set up my curtains. For the shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the Lord; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.*" (Jeremiah 10:2-5, 14-15, 20-21)

But man continually repeats the same colossal mistake of the Israelites, that of believing that he can direct his own steps and forego the guidance and leadership of God. There's a lesson here for us, that we, day after day, allow God to be our guide and to lead us in the way of righteousness. "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty, hold me with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; Bread of heaven, feed me until I want no more."

**"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** (Psalm 23) The Elders

## On Saving Brethren

By Robert Turner

"Opinionated brethren are split into splinter groups." "There are legalists among us." "Many church members are hypocrites." Well, do not expect me to deny these charges, nor to rush to the defense of opinionated brethren, legalist or hypocrites. If I take the announcement of a bit more calmly than some expect, it is not because I am unconcerned. It is just that these same problems were found in the first century church, and faithful brethren have been working on the problem for many years; and I am more concerned with assisting brethren to better understand and practice the way of the Lord than I am in protest slogans.

Radical propaganda relies heavily upon the words "hypocrisy" and "traditional" to leave the impression that any facet of society which has weathered the years, and whose continued success is a standing rebuttal to "revolution," must be bad. Such an unrealistic spirit may have been unwittingly adopted by critics of the church. But a catalogue of errors and divisions, however lengthy, does not justify another party, based upon an erroneous concept of "fellowship"—even if it flies a flag called UNITY.

I've done my share of combating a sectarian spirit among brethren, and plan to continue such. But often brethren are unaware that they have drifted into a sectarian concept of "church;" and they are worshipping God the only way they have been taught, and as sincerely as their capacity allows. If we see faults, we will not help them by rash charges. Instead we might work up sermons to explain more clearly the true meaning of worship. We might *lead* them to a better understanding of "church", but can never *drive* them there.

People often respond to what we expect of them. If I approach a study convinced that what I say will make people angry, I may have a fight on my hands before I can get away. But if I assume that they want the truth, and concentrate on giving a fair demonstration, I may reach some. My attitude will greatly affect theirs.

Put briefly, we must *demonstrate* respect for divine authority , and the love for God and brethren we would like to see in others.

### Sermons:

AM Judas--1

PM A lost sheep

### Scripture Reading:

Matthew 12:1-14

Matthew 12:15-37