

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 3--Number 28

December 25, 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 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS

### Recent Additions:

**Arlena Poynter** (her tests were good. She will have further tests in the future) **Faye Hensley** (recovering from open-heart surgery) **Mary Wilson** (critically injured in an automobile accident), **Edith Tirey** (has been moved to Cardinal Hill for rehab, room 241)

### List:

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Bennie Poynter

**Others:** 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, Michael Poynter, Taylor Osterling, CJ Nash

**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:** Ezek 19-20, Ps 119:137-144, Col1-2  
**Mon:** Ezek 21-22, Ps 119:145-152, Col 3-4  
**Tue:** Ezek 23, Ps 119:153-160, 1 Thes 1-2  
**Wed:** Ezek 24-26, Ps 119:161-168, 1 Thes 3-5  
**Thu:** Ezek 27-28, Ps 119:167-176, 2 Thes 1  
**Fri:** Ezek 29-31, Ps 120, 2 Thes 2-3  
**Sat:** Ezek 32-33, Ps 121, 1 Tim 1-3

### 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**

James 4:8 *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”*

This article will conclude the four-part series on drawing near to God. The consistent lesson of the preceding three

articles has been that in order to draw near to God one must find out where He is. So far, we have learned that God is in His creation, in His word, and in the church, the body of His only begotten Son. In this article we will look at passages that show God is in heaven, His dwelling place.

In the midst of listing the numerous laws contained in the Law of Moses, Deuteronomy 26:15 says, *“Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.”* Heaven is the holy habitation of God. Solomon, when he dedicated the temple, in 1 Kings 8:30 said, *“And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”* Heaven is God's dwelling place. Cautioning his readers regarding their speech, the preacher in Ecclesiastes 5:2 wrote, *“Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.”*

God dwells in heaven. That is where He is. If we would draw near to Him, then we must have heaven as our goal and be ever striving to get there. All of our time, energy, and our physical resources should be mere tools that help us on the road to heaven. That statement is not made to teach us that we should turn over all of our assets to some sort of central treasury. But it is stated to teach that we will have difficulty drawing near to God in heaven if we hold back from a total commitment to Him.

**“When we leave the pew, we *still* follow Jesus Christ!”**

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257 – www.uheightschurch.com

How do we draw near to God in heaven? We draw near to God through prayer. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9 He began, *“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’*” Jesus knew where God, the Father, was and where prayer should be directed. If our prayers are to be an avenue whereby we draw near to God, then we need to direct those prayers to God in heaven. In Psalm 18:6, having been rescued by God from the hand of Saul, David wrote, *“In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.”* 1 Peter 3:12 shows how receptive God is to the prayers of the righteous. *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

In Jeremiah 29, God sent a letter to the exiles in Babylon instructing them to be good citizens of whatever city they found themselves in during the exile. They were to build houses, rear families, plant gardens, and seek the welfare of the city in which they lived. In this letter God told them that at the end of the seventy years, *“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord.”* (Jeremiah 29:12-14)

God is on His throne in heaven always attuned to those who pray in an effort to be nearer to Him. *“But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”* (Psalm 73:28) The Elders

### **Church-Building Religion**

*Brother Dan Shipley wrote this article in 1982. He passed on to his reward early last week.*

Whether through neglect or misunderstanding, it is obvious that too many Christians practice a localized kind of religion; one that is almost entirely limited to the confines of the church building.

Take, for instance, the matter of Bible study. All too often it is restricted to a church-building activity. That may have been excusable back when the scarcity of Bibles was such that copies were chained to lecterns in some church buildings, but hardly in our time. As Bible class teachers well know, too few parents and children use their Bibles at home—even in preparation for class studies. Whatever happened to the practice of families gathering around the kitchen table for Bible reading?—or mothers reading Bible stories to their children at bedtime?

In the long ago God said that He wanted His words in the hearts of His people and, further, *“thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (Deut 6:6-7). Getting the words of God into our hearts and into the hearts of our children will take more than occasional Bible opening at the church building. How can we hope to accomplish this great work when so many long-time Christians have never so much as taken the time to learn the books of the Bible let alone make a personal study of them? It should not be difficult to understand why we are not growing in the faith if our appetite for spiritual food is satisfied at the church building.

Equally important is the matter of limiting our praying to the assemblies of the church. Nothing should be more characteristic of the Christian than frequent and fervent prayer. As Paul puts it, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thes. 5:17), and through James God tells us that *“the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”* (James 5:16). Do we believe it? The Christian’s prayer is an expression of his faith. He believes in the God to whom he prays, yet cannot see. He believes God hears and answers his prayers. His prayer is also an expression of humility. He sees God’s greatness and his own littleness; his supplications acknowledge his need for help; his thanksgivings acknowledge appreciation for blessings received. I, for one, believe we need more praying in our assemblies. But I believe we need more praying outside of our assemblies too! Christian, take time out of your busy schedule for some quiet moments of prayer. Its one of our greatest blessings.

Yet another problem with church-building religion is the limited association it allows with brethren. Unfortunately, about the only time many Christians see one another is at the meeting house. There are times, of course, when circumstances prevent little else. However, many can and need to do better than merely having a brief “foyer fellowship” with brethren. Brethren need encouraging, consoling, exhorting, and admonishing. They have burdens we can help bear, weakness we can help overcome. But we must be there—for their sake and for ours. When we leave the pew, we *still* follow Christ.

**Sermons:** AM “Can these bones live?” PM The apostle to the Gentiles  
**Reading:** AM (Matthew 19:16-30) PM (Matthew 20:1-16)