

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 6

February 5, 2012

## 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:

**Sandy Childress** (she's a relative of the Brundige's and is undergoing treatment for breast cancer), **Paul Ayres** (will *not* have heart surgery at this time), The Morelan's daughter, **Gaye** (receiving treatment for a very serious stroke. She and the family continue to need prayers)

### List:

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, John Thompson, Arlena Poynter, Ron Tirey

**Others:** Paul Ayres, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Rita Pagan, 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, The Shepherd family, Faye Hensley, Mary Wilson (moved to Cardinal Hill), Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington

### WEEKLY READING

**Sun:** Ps 7, Gn 8:1-19, 1 Ch 8, Lk 4:14-44  
**Mon:** Ps 8, Gn 8:20-9:19, 1 Ch 9, Lk 5:1-6:16  
**Tue:** Ps 9, Gn 9:20-10:32, 1 Ch 10, Lk 6:17-49  
**Wed:** Ps 10, Gn 11, 1 Ch 11, Lk 7:1-35  
**Thu:** Ps 11, Gn 12:-13:1, 1 Ch 12, Lk 7:36-8:3  
**Fri:** Ps 12, Gn 13:2-18, 1 Ch 13, Lk 8:4-21  
**Sat:** Ps 13, Gn 14, 1 Ch 14, Lk 8:22-56

### 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**

One of the characteristics by which successful and progressive societies are measured is the amount of free time enjoyed by the citizens. A society in which its people must spend every waking moment scraping out a meager existence is considered to be quite primitive. On the contrary, a society in which people have lots of free time to pursue interests and activities not connected with their basic existence is the goal towards which more primitive societies are expected to move. Unfortunately, people do not always make good choices about how they use their free time. Consequently, an enormous amount of time is wasted in the pursuit of worldly pleasure or in not doing much at all, that is, in idleness.

The danger of idleness has been recognized by many wise and eloquent folks. Benjamin Franklin, an individual who was productive in so many areas, wrote, "Idleness and pride tax with a heavier hand than kings and governments." Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, "I never remember feeling tired by work, though idleness exhausts me completely." Mahatma Gandhi wrote, "Purity of mind and idleness are incompatible." There is a set of English proverbs that are worded similarly: "Idle hands are the devil's workshop;" "Idle hands are the devil's tools;" "Idle brains are the devil's workhouses;" "An idle brain is the devil's workshop;" "If the Devil finds a man idle, he'll set him at work;" "The devil finds work (or mischief) for idle hands to do."

God created Adam and Eve and immediately gave them work to do. "*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*" (Genesis 2:15) In the last chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, he mentions several people, both men and women, by name and either calls them his fellow workers or cites the work they have done. A lesson to be learned from Paul's urging the Christians at Rome to greet those he mentions by name is that they were all workers in the kingdom of Christ. He mentions no one who spent time in idleness.

Christians are to be workers, not idlers. We sometimes sing "I want to be a worker for the Lord, I want to love and trust His holy word; I want to sing and pray and be busy every day, in the kingdom of the Lord." The Christian has no time for idleness; idleness has as much potential to lead the Christian to become a worker in Satan's kingdom as it does for one who is not a Christian. The devil will find work (or mischief) for a Christian's idle hands as easily as he will for anyone's idle hands.

**"...when He suffered, He did not threaten..."**  
**1 Peter 2:23**

## **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Another song we sing expresses perfectly the Christian's attitude towards work. "Work, for the night is coming, work thru the morning hours; work while the dew is sparkling, work 'mid springing flow'rs. Work when the day grows brighter, work in the glowing sun; work, for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work for the night is coming, work thru the sunny noon; fill brightest hours with labor, rest comes sure and soon. Give ev'ry flying minute, something to keep in store; work, for the night is coming, when man works no more. Work for the night is coming, under the sunset skies; while their bright tints are glowing, work, for daylight flies. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine do more; work while the night is dark'ning, when man's work is o'er."

*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:58) The Elders

### **It Made Me Think Of Jesus**

Last Sunday evening it was brought to my attention that my email account had been hacked. It turns out that every person in my address book received an email, ostensibly from me, with various advertisements. The fortunate part of an unfortunate situation is that most of the people in my address book have either been hacked or have received emails from those who have and thus have learned to recognize suspicious emails. Those who know me know that I have never used the word "yippee" in my life so when they received an email from me with that word in the subject line it raised some flags.

Having said that, one cannot help but feel some level of embarrassment when Christians from all over the world begin emailing him asking why he thought they were in need of certain products of a rather delicate nature. Even when those emails are sent tongue in cheek one cannot help but feel some discomfiture knowing that good brethren were bothered with such nonsense.

I'd be less than honest if I didn't tell you that a part of me wanted to reach through my computer to the hacker, grab the person by the collar, and shake an explanation out of them. After all, they forced me to change my email address and experience a certain amount of embarrassment. It is only fair that they answer for what they've done to me, and very likely, many others.

As I sat fuming over an email serving both as an apology and a notification of a new email address, 1 Peter 2:21-24 came unbidden to my mind. *"For to this you have been called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

Several thoughts crossed my mind. First, I was even more embarrassed than before as I considered the sort of suffering the Lord experienced compared to the "suffering" that had me ready to chew nails. Second, with warm face I recalled my desire to take the hacker by

the collar and "shake out" an explanation. The Lamb of God faced reviling, slander, and *real* suffering without calling a host from heaven to avenge Him with force and extreme prejudice (Matthew 26:46).

The third thought, and the one that has been at the front of my mind ever since, is that my initial reaction to the hacker and his or her transgression had nothing whatever to do with the salvation of a soul. In fact, it wasn't until considering the passage from 1 Peter 2 that a single spiritual thought ever entered my mind. Once more I thought of Jesus and the pain He experienced at the spiritual destitution of His enemies. After lambasting their hypocrisy, firing on them with both barrels, He nonetheless grieved in His soul because of their condition. *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"* (Matthew 23:37).

You and I live in a primarily lost world. We live in primarily lost states, cities, and communities. Most of our neighbors are not Christians; most of our coworkers or fellow students are not Christians. Many of us live in families with very few members faithful to the Lord Jesus. As I considered these things I found myself surprised that I *was ever surprised* that my account was hacked. The hacker's actions were ungodly, unrighteous, and just plain mean. Yet that hacker serves a master who *is* ungodly, unrighteous, and just plain mean. "Like father, like son" is a very biblical concept (John 8:44). Why would one still in bondage to sin and Satan behave in any other way?

Were I to meet the hacker one day I would let them know that what they did was wrong and hurtful. However, I would inform them of that only to introduce them to a better, *a saving*, way. Though I temporarily seem to have forgotten it, that person is made in the image of God just like me, his or her soul every bit as precious in the eyes of God as mine. Now that I think about it, I might just thank that person should I ever meet them. Their actions and *my reactions* opened a window to my soul and showed me some things that needed fixing. The correction has been made.

Thanks to God for His patience, to Christ for His example, and to the Spirit for presenting those examples to us in clear, understandable ways! May God grant His people eager hearts in carrying His message of salvation and hope to the lost, even the lost that wrong them in a personal way. After all, where would we be if Jesus were to withhold salvation when insulted or wronged? AL

**Sermons:** AM Authority and the Lord's church PM Introducing the "unknown god"

**Reading:** AM (Matthew 4:36-51) PM (Matthew 5:1-13)

