

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

**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)

**Recent Additions:**

**Mary Wilson** (She is in a skilled nursing facility continuing her rehabilitation), **Taylor Osterling** (he is at home recovering from his surgery), **Brethren** in several states have lost homes and other possessions due to the recent storms. Let us pray for them and help them in other ways as we have opportunity.

**List:**

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Ron Tirey

**Others:** Gaye Brassom, Paul Ayres, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Taylor Osterling, CJ Nash, The Shepherd family, Faye Hensley, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington

<p><b><u>WEEKLY READING</u></b></p> <p><b>Sun:</b> Ps 42-43, Gn 39, 2 Ch 16, Ac 9:32-43</p> <p><b>Mon:</b> Ps 44, Gn 40, 2 Ch 17, Ac 10:1-11:18</p> <p><b>Tue:</b> Ps 45, Gn 41:1-36, 2 Ch 18:1-19:3, Ac 11:19-30</p> <p><b>Wed:</b> Ps 46, Gn 41:37-57, 2 Ch 19:4-11, Ac 12</p> <p><b>Thu:</b> Ps 47, Gn 42, 2 Ch 20, Ac 13-14</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> Ps 48, Gn 43, 2 Ch 21, Ac 15:1-35</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> Ps 49, Gn 44, 2 Ch 22, Ac 15:36-17:15</p>	<p><b><u>LEADERSHIP</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b><u>ELDERS</u></b></td> <td><b><u>DEACONS</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garry Banks</td> <td>Troy Antle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Collins</td> <td>Richard Brundige</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Thompson</td> <td>Neal Erickson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Adam Litmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b></td> <td>Bill Morelan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Litmer</td> <td>Jim Parsons</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pat Seabolt</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Matt Thompson</td> </tr> </table>	<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	<b><u>DEACONS</u></b>	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	David Collins	Richard Brundige	John Thompson	Neal Erickson		Adam Litmer	<b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b>	Bill Morelan	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons		Pat Seabolt		Matt Thompson	<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday</u></b></p> <p>Bible Study: 9:45 AM</p> <p>Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p>Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></b></p> <p>Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></b></p> <p>Bible Study: 7:00 PM</p> <p>(Ask for location)</p>
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**University Heights Messenger**

Volume 4--Number 10

March 11, 2012

**There's a lesson here**

One of the shortest verses in the Bible instructs the Christian to be engaged in a long-term practice. Using just three words, words that require only an instant to read silently or even speak aloud, the Christian is taught to be engaged in a certain activity for the rest of his or her life. This activity is to be a life-long practice. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, *“Pray without ceasing.”* The Christian is not to pray erratically, sporadically, intermittently, or irregularly. He or she is to pray consistently, continually; his prayers should be ascending into heaven today, tomorrow, the day after that, and unceasingly on into the future.

**“Pray without ceasing”**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

Consider Paul and what he wrote to the brethren in the church at Colosse. *“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven... And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”* (Colossians 1:3-5 and 9-10) Notice the words “always” and “we have not ceased.” Prayer characterized the life of Paul, as it did the one whom he patterned himself after, Jesus.

If the Christian is to pray without ceasing, it stands to reason that there must be a lot about which to pray. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he began with *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”* (Luke 11:2) The infinite goodness, mercy, majesty, power, grandeur, authority, sovereignty, and love of our Creator provide an unlimited supply of reasons to be engaged unceasingly in prayer. But that is not all! The following scriptures identify a mere smattering of things for which we should be praying without ceasing:

- Pray for those who despitely use you. (Matthew 5:44)
- Pray that God’s will be done. (Matthew 6:10)
- Pray for our daily bread. (Matthew 6:11)
- Pray for forgiveness of sins. (Luke 11:4)
- Pray for deliverance from evil. (Matthew 6:13)
- Pray for laborers in the Lord’s harvest. (Matthew 9:38)
- Pray for deliverance from temptation. (Matthew 26:41)

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- Pray that our faith will not fail. (Luke 22:32)
- Pray that we do no evil. (2 Corinthians 13:7)
- Pray that our love may abound. (Philippians 1:9)
  - Pray for evangelists. (1 Thessalonians 5:25)
- Pray that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
  - Pray for the sick and for one another. (James 5:15-16)

The Christian will never want for something to pray for. Whether it be for himself, for his family, for the church, for the sick, for the spread of the gospel, for his brethren, for the government, to praise and honor God, or to be thankful, there is always someone or something about which to pray without ceasing.

The Elders

### “Should Ohio legalize same sex marriage?”—2

The above question was posted on the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* website on March 1. It was posed as a poll question. By the time I was made aware of it a few thousand people had placed their votes and those voting “yes” had taken a commanding lead. Many of the people who had cast their vote in favor of legalizing same sex marriage considered themselves Christians as evidenced by their comments in the discussion section of the poll. Many of them thought that their voting in favor of same-sex marriage demonstrated love, compassion, and acceptance thus highlighting a “Christ-like spirit” lacking in all those who cast their vote against the proposition under discussion.

In the previous article we considered some of the things the Old Testament has to say about homosexuality. That it calls homosexuality a sin is something that no honest person can deny and most advocates for same-sex marriage who also consider themselves Christians do *not* deny it. However, many of them claim that things changed in the New Testament and homosexuality was set forth as a lifestyle accepted in the eyes of God. The goal of this article is to consider the New Testament to see if it is true that God changed His view of homosexuality from something sinful to something acceptable.

Take just a moment to read Romans 1:18-28. In those verses we see a very sad, yet interesting, descent. The Gentiles knew God. Yet it was at this knowledge they began their downward plunge. They refused to honor God, became foolish in their reasoning, their hearts became darkened, they lost any true notion of God, and they eventually began to serve the creature rather than the Creator. At that point God gave them up to their own follies and they continued on their terrible descent, this time into moral and physical corruption. Down and down they plunged until they finally hit the bottom of human degradation. From what a lofty height they had fallen! Yet their plunge is familiar, is it not? Today “Christians” celebrate the very act shown to be a mark of God’s wrath upon men and women who have abandoned Him.

In case some were unable to read the passage above, the following is stated in

verses 26 and 27. “*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those which are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up the natural relations with women and were consumed with passion one for another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*” How could the Holy Spirit have more definitively stated the unnaturalness of homosexuality than He did in these verses through the inspired apostle? The present day effort to accept homosexuality as a proper lifestyle is not new nor is it any more pleasing to God today than it was then.

A common argument is that people are born homosexual and thus cannot change. Not only does such an argument ignore scientific evidence to the contrary, it also seeks to remove the Bible from the equation and place the entire conversation on a purely emotional level. However, Christians must remain with the Scriptures and they clearly demonstrate that the above argument is not true. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says, “*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*”

Isn’t Paul’s point clear? Just as all unrighteous people; be they drunkards, idolaters, thieves, revilers, adulterers, greedy, etc., can give up their unrighteous practices and change, so too can the homosexual. If any deny this, Paul said that some of the Corinthians had been homosexuals (“and such were some of you”), but they had changed. Today many claim that some are born homosexual. This would mean that God had created them sinners. “*Let God be true though every man were a liar.*” One is not born a homosexual any more than he is born a thief or an adulterer, and homosexuality is reversible just as those other sins are. The New Testament affirms that homosexuality is a sin every bit as clearly as the Old Testament does.

Having said all of this, sin is never a laughing matter. It is not something to joke about and the individual involved in it does not need abuse heaped upon them. Even if they don’t want it, a sinner *needs* people who understand that true love is not tolerating or taking amusement at their sinful actions, but pointing out those sins in an effort to help make them right with God. The homosexual can be saved just as every other sinner can be saved. Yet he must know that his actions are sinful and those who care for the well being of his soul must work to reach him. AL

**Sermons:** AM Respecting Temptation  
**Reading:** AM Matthew 27:45-66

**PM** Answering Questions  
**PM** Matthew 28