

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:

Remember the **Sims Family** as they mourn the loss of John. **Charlie Little** has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. **Michael Wells** (former member, now at East End) has requested prayers as he experiences some health issues.

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, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington, Mary Wilson, Ed Byers, RJ Stevens

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Ps 71, Ex 17, Ez 7, Ro 8:1-17
Mon: Ps 72, Ex 18, Ez 8, Ro 8:18-39
Tue: Ps 73, Ex 19, Ez 9, Ro 9:1-29
Wed: Ps 74, Ex 20:1-17, Ez 10, Ro 9:30-10:21
Thu: Ps 75, Ex 20:18-21:11, Ne 1, Ro 11
Fri: Ps 76, Ex 21:12-22:15, Ne 2, Ro 12
Sat: Ps 77, Ex 22:16-23:9, Ne 3, Ro 13

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)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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University Heights Messenger

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There's a lesson here

The song Our God, He Is Alive, begins "There is, beyond the azure blue, a God concealed from human sight." We understand that man is physically unable to see God. When Moses desired to be shown the glory of God, God told him, "You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." (Exodus 33:20). God must be so high and holy, so bright and shining, so glorious and magnificent, so far beyond the physical capabilities of human sight that He remains concealed.

Let us welcome and encourage Lindsey and Deborah, our two new sisters in Jesus Christ!

While God may be concealed from human sight, He is in no way hidden such that He cannot be known. We may not be able to see him face to face in the same way that we have such interactions with other people throughout every day, but God has not left us in the dark about Himself. We can know Him in great detail; we can know him intimately; we can know Him to such an extent that we want to serve Him, to obey Him, to be like Him, and to follow Him to the death. How can this be if we cannot physically see Him?

2 Corinthians 5:7 answers the above question. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." We do not come to the assurance that God exists, that He has our best interests in mind; that He ought to be obeyed by seeing Him with our physical eyes. We do not conclude that God loves us by watching Him with our physical eyes perform some loving action. Nor do we stand by and observe with our eyes God sitting on His throne ruling the universe. Yet we can know, without doubt, all of these things, and more, even though He is concealed from human sight because we walk by faith, not by sight. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

God has provided ample evidence of Himself whereby we can know who He is and what He has done for us because He loves us. We do not have to physically see Him fashion a daffodil to know that He created it. Through faith we can "see", in one of the first flowers of spring, indescribable beauty and infinite creativity that could only have come from an all-powerful, all-knowing God. We do not have to physically watch God distribute the sweet smell of honeysuckle in full bloom to our nostrils as we ride along a country byway. We know by faith that such sweetness is of divine origin. We do not have to physically see God talking into someone's ear, trying to convince him or her to be a

follower. We can by faith “see” God’s power working through the gospel as it simultaneously convicts the sinner and teaches what must be done to access forgiveness of sins.

The “sight” that faith provides is so much more real than physical sight. We can be deceived, or tricked, or deluded, or misguided by human sight. We can be taken in by illusions that seem so real at the time they are observed. But the sight that faith provides is foolproof. True Bible faith, the faith that comes to be through understanding the Bible, “*rightly handling the word of truth*,” (2 Timothy 2:15) enables one to “see” God so much more clearly than if we were to view him through our human eyes. We cannot underestimate the importance and power of walking by faith. The Elders

Dealing With Those Who Are Contentious

By Sewell Hall

Some people “*receive with meekness the implanted word*” (James 1:27). Others “*generate strife*” with their “*foolish and ignorant disputes*” (2 Timothy 2:23). With the later we are tempted to get in and mix it up, confident that we can out dispute them. In this text the Holy Spirit tells us to avoid such disputes.

We are faced, however, with the problem of saving such people. In the next verse the Holy Spirit instructs us for this also. “*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, and that they may escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will*” (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

The legitimate goal of controversy is to “*correct those who are in opposition*” and to bring them to “*the acknowledgment of the truth.*” It is not to make points in our favor, to just win an argument, or to win applause from those who already agree with us.

We are to view opponents, not as opposing us but as opposing themselves (verse 25). Their attitudes and conduct are in opposition to their own best interests. The moment we begin to think of them as *our* enemies we are tempted to become vindictive, sarcastic, and bitter—even devious. This is the very spirit this passage is intended to forbid.

We are to consider them captives to Satan (verse 26). The first sin resulted when “*the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness*” (2 Corinthians 11:3). Satan is always our adversary; he is the enemy. “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this present age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places*” (Ephesians 6:15). The fact that they are captives of Satan should encourage our sympathy. If “*Michael the archangel, in contending*

with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ (Jude 9), then it hardly becomes us to revile those who are Satan’s captives.

We are to be gentle (verse 24). One who finds a fawn caught in a bear trap will be gentle in his efforts to release it. The rescue may monetarily increase the pain, but we take no pleasure in inflicting such pain and every effort is made to minimize it. Scripture nowhere encourages unkindness toward anyone.

We are to be patient (verse 24), “forbearing” (ASV), “not resentful” (NIV). These words imply the possibility of abuse from the student. Here we face one of our greatest challenges to be like Jesus “*who committed no sin, not was guilt found in his mouth; who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return*” (1 Peter 2:21-22).

We are to be humble (verse 25), “meek” (ASV). Pride is a major temptation in controversy. “*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted*” (Galatians 6:1-2).

Our hope that those in error may be corrected is based upon the hope that “*God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth*” (verse 25). We cannot force correction by our overpowering logic, awesome skill, or astounding knowledge. This explains Paul’s approach to the Corinthians: “*And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God*” (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). “*It is God who works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure*” (Philippians 2:13).

We understand that God does not work repentance directly, but by the truth. Our part is to be “*apt to teach*” (verse 24). Truth is the only weapon provided us. “*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God for pulling down strongholds, casting down argument and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

With these verses in mind, we commend one who has “*come to his senses*” (verse 26), and we praise God who has given him “*repentance unto the acknowledgment of the truth*”; but there is no room for us to boast. “*He who glories, let him glory in the Lord*” (Jeremiah 9:24, 1 Corinthians 1:31).

Sermons: AM Garry Banks will be preaching
PM Christ’s Titles—Scripture and Song

Reading: AM Mark 4:1-20
PM Mark 4:21-41