

University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 23

May 27, 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:

Ron Tirey continues to recover from his recent surgery. **Julie Patton** and **Amy Sims** are both progressing in their pregnancies. **Taylor Osterling** has been placed on the list for a kidney transplant. **Rose Curtis** (Jackie's grandmother) is recovering from cataract surgery and will have another in June.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson

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, Charlie Little

<p><u>WEEKLY READING</u></p> <p>Sun: Ps 119:89-176, Lev 26, Is 35, Eph 4:17-32</p> <p>Mon: Ps 120, Lev 27, Is 36-37, Eph 5:1-21</p> <p>Tue: Ps 121, Nu 1, Is 38, Eph 5:22-6:9</p> <p>Wed: Ps 122, Nu 2, Is 39, Eph 6:10-24</p> <p>Thu: Ps 123, Nu 3-4, Is 40, Ph 1:1-26</p> <p>Fri: Ps 124, Nu 5, Is 41, Ph 1:27-2:11</p> <p>Sat: Ps 125, Nu 6, Is 42, Ph 2:12-30</p>	<p><u>LEADERSHIP</u></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><u>ELDERS</u></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"><u>DEACONS</u></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><u>EVANGELIST</u></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>	<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	<p><u>SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Sunday</u></p> <p>Bible Study: 9:45 AM</p> <p>Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u></p> <p>Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></p> <p>Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></p> <p>Bible Study: 7:00 PM</p> <p>(Ask for location)</p>
<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																			

“We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift...” (Hebrews 2:1)

There's A Lesson Here

First Annas, then Caiaphas, the High Priest, and finally Pilate, the Roman Governor. The Jews who interrogated Jesus were determined that he would die. Only Pilate questioned Jesus with some degree of objectivity. That interchange is found in John 18:29-38. *“So Pilate went outside to them and said, ‘What accusation do you bring against this man?’ They answered him, ‘If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.’ The Jews said to him, ‘It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.’ This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’ Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’ After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, ‘I find no guilt in him.’”*

It is not difficult for one to get the idea that Jesus' answers to Pilate's questions frustrated the governor, causing him to sort of throw up his hands into the air and to turn away from Jesus muttering “What is truth?” as he went outside again to face the Jews. Whatever his state of mind as he asked “What is truth?” the question continues to evade a consistently satisfying answer to this day. Most people, no doubt, feel the question is best left to the philosophers to struggle

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

towards an answer. But truth is, first and foremost, a spiritual question and how one answers Pilate's question has eternal consequences. So, what is truth?

Truth is an absolute. Should truth lose its absoluteness, it then is no longer truth. What does it mean that truth is an absolute? Truth is absolute in that it stands alone. It is totally independent of anything and everything else. Truth needs no support, no propping up. No one can come along and push it over or knock the props out from under it. Truth remains standing regardless of any and all forces brought against it, and it stands alone. It is absolute.

Truth is absolute in that it is complete and perfect. It exists as a totality, that is, a total package containing no gaps or omissions that must be filled in by some other means. Because truth is complete and perfect it is also final. Once delivered there is no additional truth to follow.

Truth is absolute in that it is not subject to conditions. There are no circumstances that determine whether or not truth is present. Truth establishes and makes known prevailing conditions; it sets that which limits man's actions. But truth, itself, cannot be limited by conditions.

Truth is an absolute in that it is singular. There is no plurality of truths, only one. Truth does have its competitors, but they cannot be truth unless they present the exact same total package as truth. When they do, they cease being competitive. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)

The Elders

"Turning A Stray"

By Dan Shipley

The bank just presented me with my annual dividend—a new wall calendar. I like it. Mostly, I guess, because it features a western scene. Its central figure is a hard riding cowboy attempting to turn a galloping steer back to the herd. The painting is appropriately called, "Turning a stray." As I reflected on this scene and its title, it brought to mind another kind of stray—one whose plight ought to be the concern of every faithful Christian.

The spiritual stray represents one of the oldest and most perplexing problems among God's people. Scarcely a congregation has escaped his hurtful effects, not to

mention what he does to himself. Many have agonized over solutions. What *can* we do? Well, regardless of what we decide, it may be helpful to ponder his plight for a moment. How does one get to be a stray to start with? Obviously, it is not a deliberate thing, as the world itself indicates. Another word describing the same process is the word "drift" as found in Hebrews 2:1. IN this context (verses 103) we find a clue, not only to the cause of this condition, but to its cure as well: *"Therefore we ought to give more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?"* It is not that one plans to stray, many are a long time in realizing they have. And herein we see the deceptiveness of this gradual and almost unconscious process. It always begins with a *slight* loss of spiritual appetite; a *little* less interest; and a *bit* less involvement—almost imperceptible at first, not only to the stray but to his undiscerning brethren as well.

In fact, what we normally consider to be the first sign of drifting may be nearer the last—and that is absenteeism from Bible classes and worship services. This may be due to a faulty concept of faithfulness; one that is more oriented to the church than to the Lord. While it is true that faithfulness involves out presence in assemblies, it does not follow that merely attending services makes one faithful. Being in the pew and in the faith are not the same. Lips that say "Lord, Lord", even from the pew, mean very little when the heart is far from Him (Matthew 15:8). And such a heart is where the problem begins. In spiritual deterioration the heart is always the first to go. So it is the straying heart and not so much its symptoms that must be dealt with if meaningful changes are to be effected. And this brings us back to the remedy suggested in our context.

The key to faithfulness is giving heed to *"the things that were heard"*; the Word of God—and the *"more earnest"* the better. The more one's attention is on God's truth, the less apt he is to stray. Not only will this keep one with God, it will restore the stray (if anything will). You might say that heeding truth will keep us from turning astray and at the same time help us turn a stray. Only an appeal to truth can bring men to God or return men to Him. With it we can instruct, remind and admonish, but it is our *only* power to turn a stray. The need is to heed!

SERMONS

AM The Personal Nature of Faith
PM David's Three Mighty Men

READINGS

Mark 10:1-16
Mark 10:17-34