

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

March 30, 2008

THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD

The word that they gladly received was the inspired word of God that was being spoken by the apostles of Jesus Christ. The word was telling the listeners how to take advantage of God's grace. It is hard to imagine that any would not gladly receive such a beneficial word, but the very sad truth is that most did not gladly receive the word spoken. Most did not receive it whether spoken by Jesus himself during his personal ministry or by his apostles or by those that became Christians though the preaching and writing of the apostles. Jesus predicted that would be the case. **Matthew 7: 13** "Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it." Salvation through Jesus Christ is not what everybody wants. Salvation through Jesus Christ was never what everybody wanted. At another time Jesus said "He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me." (Mark 10:37, 38) When Jesus went to Nazareth where he had been brought up the people in his hometown did not gladly receive his word. **Luke 4: 28** "And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath. 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong." Jesus spoke the words that so upset the people to an assembly in the synagogue at Nazareth. It would probably be safe to assume that those people were enough interested in spiritual things of some kind to be there in that building where Jesus spoke. It is also probably safe to assume that whatever it was that they liked about coming to that synagogue was not what they got from Jesus that day. The audience in the synagogue in Nazareth did not gladly receive the words of Jesus Christ. In their response to the words of Jesus they proved themselves unworthy of eternal life. Their negative reaction to the words of Jesus did not diminish the value of the words of Jesus. The words of Jesus are the benchmark by which each of us will be judged. The **WORD** is significant. **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." **John 12: 48** "He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said to me, so I speak." In the long term a person cannot survive not gladly receiving the words of Jesus but in spite of that most do not gladly receive the words of Jesus.

The words of Jesus sometimes caused people to stop following Jesus. That happened in the synagogue at Capernaum. **John 6: 59** "These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard [this], said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said to them, Does this offend you?"

In this incident in the synagogue at Capernaum Jesus lost many of his disciples, but he did not lose them all. The thing that made the difference between staying with Jesus or leaving him was an attitude toward the words of Jesus that was held by those that stayed. That defining attitude was clearly stated by Simon Peter, **John 6: 66** "From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus to the twelve; Will you also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." To obey the teachings that are preserved in the New Testament is to gain what cannot be gained in any other way. Jesus came with THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. The message of Jesus is a unique and exclusive message. It is not one of many possible ways to have eternal life; it is the only way to have eternal life. Jesus is not one of many saviors; Jesus is the only Savior. **Acts 4: 10** "Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him does this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." We will either gladly receive the words of Jesus and be saved or we will not be saved.

To his disciples Jesus gave instructions that were to be followed for as long as the earth stands. **Matthew 28:18** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the world." **Mark 16: 15** "And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned."

Jesus is called The Prince of Peace. How could one whose words so often caused tumult and division between himself and others be described in scripture as "The Prince of Peace"? **Isaiah 9: 6** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The peace that Jesus makes is a peace between repentant, baptized believers and God. **Romans 5:1** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

To those who gladly receive his word Jesus is The Prince of Peace. **Acts 2: 40** "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [to them] about three thousand souls." The words of Jesus are very, very simple but many absolutely refuse to gladly receive them and be saved. That is extremely sad. We must pray for the lost and do all we are able to help them see what the 3000 in **Acts 2** saw that moved them to gladly receive the word and be saved. But we should never forget that there could have been 1,000,000 or more people in Jerusalem but only 3000 responded. It is our job to preach the word and God's job to bring the increase. Let us be sure we do our job as well as we are able. (**1Corinthians 3:7**)

Remember to Pray For

OUR GOSPEL MEETING

Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Lewis Harrod
Dan Moody
Alexa Ann Harper
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Roselyn Agyare
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens will have surgery on
April 8, in Nashville, TN
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe continues to be very,
very ill.

Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer

Does it say “flesh” or does it say
“sinful nature”?

The Greek word “sarx” (#4561) which means essentially the same thing in all of its uses in New Testament Greek as the North American English word “flesh” is in **Romans 7: 5, 18,25; 8: 3,4, 5,7,8, 9, 12, 13; 13:14**, translated “**sinful nature**” by the **New International Version** of the New Testament. In **Romans 1:3** it translates the same word “**human nature**”. In **Romans 8:28** it translates the same word “**physical**”. In **Romans 3:20** it translates the same word “**one**”. In **Romans 4:1** it translates the word “**in this matter**”. In **Romans 6:19** it is translated “**natural selves**”. In **Romans 8:6** it is translated “**sinful man**”. In **Romans 8: 7** it is translated “**sinful**”. In **Romans 9:3** the same word is translated “**race**”. In **Romans 9:5** the word is translated “**human ancestry**”. In **Romans 9:8** it is translated “**natural**”. In **Romans 11:14** it is translated “**own people**”. **Remember that the original Greek word means, “flesh” in exactly the same way the North American English word, means “flesh”.** To translate the word anything but “flesh” is not translation, it is interpretation and their interpretation is wrong because their understanding is wrong. Jesus Christ and we inherited **flesh** from Adam not **sin**.

Thoughts

That they might all be one what?

I heard a person say that God desired all to be “one” and therefore all manners of unrepentant and still practicing fornicators should be accepted as members or even leaders of a church. So the question “one what”? Are all to be one in unrepentant sin? Are all to be one in ignorance of God’s will and in unbelief? Are all to be one in open rebellion against God’s revealed will? Are all to be one in false religion? Are all to be one in confusion and contradicting beliefs? Listen to Jesus. **John 17: 20** “*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as You, Father, [are] in me, and I in You, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that You have sent me. 22 And the glory which You gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and You in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent me, and have loved them, as You have loved me.*”

The Father and the Son are not one in sin. Neither are they one in willingness to accept unrepentant sinners. **The Father and the Son are one in the truth. In order to be one in the Father and in the Son the faithful must be one in the truth.** So, what is the truth about fornication?

The truth on any issue is what the word of God says is truth. **John 17: 17** “*Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth.*” Whatever the word of God says about fornication is the truth about fornication. **1Corinthians 6: 9** “*Know you not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*”

The faithful are expressly forbidden to accept unrepentant fornicators. **1Corinthians 5: 11** “*But now I have written to you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*”

Paul commanded the faithful to withdraw fellowship from an unrepentant fornicator. **1Corinthians 5:13** “*Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*”

Churches that extend fellowship to unrepentant fornicators **are not obeying the word of God. They are sinning. Only God has the authority to define sin. Whatever God says is sin is sin and nobody but God has a right to say that it is not. We are one in the truth.**

Notes

Singing this Friday, 7:30PM
Men’s business meeting April 13
3:00PM

**REMEMBER NEXT SUNDAY
MORNING IS THE BEGINNING OF
OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH
GARY HENRY PREACHING
APRIL 6-11**

This is an opportunity to bring friends to hear the word of God discussed.

This is an opportunity for each of us to be taught and encouraged from the word of God.

This is an opportunity to come together to teach and encourage one another singing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

This is an opportunity to come together to pray to God.

More than anything else the word of God needs to grow and prosper on this earth. One way that can happen is through this gospel meeting and other efforts like this.

In the hands of those **who are not ashamed of it** the word of God is powerful in combating sin in each and every heart from the street person to the president. All will stand before God to be judged by the same word. All need to prepare.

Acts 12: 24 “*But the word of God grew and multiplied.*”

Acts 19: 20 “*So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.*”

**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THE WORD
OF GOD GROW, MULTIPLY AND
PREVAIL IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY
TODAY?**

**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THE WORD
OF GOD GROW, MULTIPLY AND
PREVAIL IN MY HEART TODAY?**

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

University Heights

Church of Christ

445 Columbia Avenue

Lexington, Kentucky 40508

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**