

University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 24

June 3, 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:

Taylor Osterling is receiving dialysis as he awaits a kidney transplant. **Doris Baker** is recovering from her knee surgery. She has been experiencing some difficulty with kidney function but as of Friday the doctors felt she had made improvement in that area. **Alexander Litmer** is scheduled to have his tonsils and adenoids removed on July 3.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Ron Tirey, Julie Patton, Amy Sims

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, Rose Curtis

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Ps 126, Nu 7, Is 43:1-44:5, Ph 3:1-4:1
Mon: Ps 127, Nu 8, Is 44:6-28, Ph 4:2-23
Tue: Ps 128, Nu 9:1-14, Is 45, Co 1:1-20
Wed: Ps 129, Nu 9:15-10:10, Is 46-47, Col 1:21-2:5
Thu: Ps 130, Nu 10:11-36, Is 48-49, Col 2:6-23
Fri: Ps 131, Nu 11, Is 50, Col 3:1-17
Sat: Ps 132, Nu 12, Is 51:1-52:12, Col 3:18-4:18

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

National and international financial news seems to always have the specter of debt at its core. Many

European countries are constantly facing bankruptcy due to their enormous debt loads. Our own country's national debt and the constant battle between the administration and congress over how much to annually raise the debt limits are extremely worrisome. Debt obligates; debt makes one subservient; debt allows for legal claims and takes away certain rights; debt places the lender in the driver's seat and the borrower is forced to go along for the ride; debt promotes the "I want it now" mindset; debt overwhelms. Consider the following scriptures:

Proverbs 22:7 **"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."** When you borrow money, your future earnings, to the extent of the payback agreement, no longer belong to you. You have given up your rights to that money. It belongs to the lender before you even earn it.

Deuteronomy 28:44 **"He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail."** Chapter 28 of Deuteronomy begins with stating the blessings promised to Israel if they obey God's commandments, and it ends, beginning in verse 15, with the curses promised if they are disobedient. Among those curses is the fact that aliens and foreigners among them would become greater and more powerful, subjugating them and forcing them to become debtors. Once that happened, they would be at the mercy of their lenders; the lenders would be in control (the head) and the borrower would be the tail, wagging at the command of the lender. How quickly debt, even in our own society, can become a curse if not managed properly.

Here are some additional thoughts concerning the dangers of incurring debt. First, easy credit sounds great, but its very easiness is a trap too often not avoided. Credit card companies may begin with low credit limits, but soon increase those limits. Then, one begins to be flooded with offers for additional credit cards

"It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay." Ecclesiastes 5:5

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offering cash incentives. Within a very short time, one can be several thousand dollars in debt to credit card companies and literally be unable to make even minimum payments. Is it not being untruthful to knowingly promise to make payments that exceed one's earning capacity? Ecclesiastes 5:5 states, **"It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay."**

Second, in a very real sense, living on credit and obligating oneself to make payments for years and years to come, is exceedingly presumptuous regarding your future. It is as if you are telling God that you **know** you will continue to live and prosper, at least for as long as you need to pay back your loans. Yet, James 4:13-14 teaches a very different lesson regarding one's proper perception of future time. **"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."**

Third, buying on time goes hand in hand with materialism. Generally speaking, with the exception of home mortgages, automobiles and even student loans, people do not go deeply into debt over the necessities of life. People burden themselves with debt beyond their ability to repay over big screen TV's, the latest electronic gadgets, vacations they cannot afford, the latest fashions, etc. The available ways to incur debt are too numerous to mention in this short article. We need to take to heart 1 John 2:15 which says, **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

The Elders

The Way Paul Preached

By Robert Turner

Soon after Paul had established the cause of Christ in Galatia, Judaizing teachers appeared and began their work of destruction. They insisted the Gentiles must be circumcised, must come to Christ via a Jewish route of law; and in their effort to overcome the truth Paul had taught they questioned his apostleship. Paul defended his apostleship to establish the divine source of his message. We here note only the variety and nature of his appeal—the way Paul preached.

There was absolutely *no* toleration of "another gospel," even though an angel should preach it (1:8-9). Nor could its principles be compromised, even by another

apostle (2:11-14). But strong, hard preaching and emotional appeals were not incompatible. He compared his early work with them to a woman in birth pains, suffering much to bring them to Christ. Now, **"I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you"** (4:19). He reminded them of their appreciation for his early effort, saying, **"If it had been possible ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me"** (4:15). That is a heart wringer!

He could become upset with them: **"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you"** (3:1); but it is concern for their spiritual well being that disturbs him. **"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years"** (as religious ceremonies); so he says, **"I am afraid for you"** (4:11) and **"I stand in doubt of you"** (4:20). This is the concern of genuine love.

But for those who brazenly contradicted the principles of the gospel Paul had some strong words. He said they were proselytizing for the sake of numbers, and their own glory (6:12-f). They **"desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh."** Perhaps his sharpest criticism is the irony of Galatians 5:12, **"I would they were even cut off which were troubling you."** They preach a little cutting; I wish they were completely cut off.

Here is love, warning, concern, exasperation, tender appeal, fear and trembling, harshness, prayer, blood, and thunder. Here is a genuine soldier of the cross; a man of flesh whose heart's desire was to serve Christ; an example for us all.

SERMONS

AM Pitfalls of Social Networking – 3
PM Psalms 51:7-13

READINGS

Mark 10:35-52
Mark 11:1-14