

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 continues to prepare for a kidney transplant. **Doris Baker** continues her recovery, as does **Edith Tirey**. **Alexander Litmer** is scheduled to have his tonsils and adenoids removed on July 3. **Rachel Knollman's** biopsy came back clear! She is very grateful for all the prayers.

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, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington, Mary Wilson, Ed Byers, RJ Stevens, Charlie Little, Rose Curtis

<p><u>WEEKLY READING</u></p> <p>Sun: Ps 147, Nu 33:1-49, Jo 2:1-17, 1 Ti 4</p> <p>Mon: Ps 148, Nu 33:50-34:29, Jo 2:18-27, 1 Ti 5:1-6:2</p> <p>Tue: Ps 149, Nu 35-36, Jo 2:28-3:21, 1 Ti 6:3-21</p> <p>Wed: Ps 150, Deut 1, Jonah 1, 2 Ti 1:1-7</p> <p>Thu: Pr 1:1-7, Deut 2, Jonah 2, 2 Ti 1:8-18</p> <p>Fri: Pr 1:8-19, Deut 3, Jonah 3, 2 Ti 2</p> <p>Sat: Pr 1:20-33, Deut 4, Jonah 4, 2 Ti 3:1-9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LEADERSHIP</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>ELDERS</u></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><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>
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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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There's A Lesson Here

Successful military operations depend upon an extraordinarily high level of teamwork. Each member of a well-trained tactical unit not only has a specific task necessary to the accomplishment of the mission but each member is cross-trained to take over the tasks of other members should some be slain in battle. Such losses in battle are anticipated and thus provision is made during training so that the mission will not be compromised in battle.

“Pride goes before destruction, and haughty spirit before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18

What can neither be anticipated nor tolerated is desertion. Desertion is the forsaking of, or the abandonment of a service, a cause, a party, a friend, or any post of duty. It is the quitting of one's duties willfully and without right. Nothing jeopardizes the effectiveness of a military unit more than desertion. Nothing can destroy morale in a highly skilled team more quickly than desertion. Nothing can cause the overall confidence of the unit to plummet more easily than desertion. Deserters do not usually announce their intentions before they sneak away; their abandonment usually comes as a surprise.

The desire to be free from difficult, dangerous, and life-threatening situations is understandable, but people truly committed to a cause bravely and courageously persevere regardless of the danger. The mission is more important than cowardly abandoning those who depend upon them. They do not desert. Deserters are despised. In wartime, their offense has been considered worthy of expeditious execution. No one likes deserters, and neither does God.

The Apostle Paul, during his last imprisonment before he was killed for the sake of Christ, knew what it was like to be abandoned. He wrote Timothy, *“Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”* (2 Timothy 4:9-10) In previous letters he had called Demas a fellow worker. Paul went on in verse 16, *“At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me.”* Surely God does not want us to desert one another as we strive together to advance the kingdom of his dear son.

Not only can Christians desert one another, but we can also desert God. Desertion has begun when we leave our first love, as was said of the Ephesian church in Revelation 2:4, *“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”* God

is deserted when his doctrine is not reverently and strictly adhered to. Paul made this clear to the church at Galatia. *“I am astonished [I marvel, I am surprised, I am amazed] that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.”*

God has promised not to be a deserter, not to abandon his people. The Amplified New Testament expresses the marvelous presence of God in the lives of his people this way: *“For He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]”* (Hebrews 13:5) May we never desert our God, but *“be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58) The Elders

The Humbling Of A Wicked Nation—2

In our last article we began discussing the nation of Edom. We concluded by mentioning that one particular prophet was given an entire prophecy about the things that would happen to that nation in their future. The prophet’s name was Obadiah and his entire book, though short, is about Edom. Eventually they were to be entirely destroyed as a people. Obadiah tells us the reasons why and in the process provides several practical warnings.

Obadiah 1-4 says, *“The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom: We have heard a report from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: ‘Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!’ The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’ Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the Lord.”*

The judgment against Edom was in large part due to his godless arrogance and pride. The first specific object of his arrogance mentioned by Obadiah was his location. Dwelling in the mountains southeast of Judah, Edom occupied very formidable territory. The fabled city of Petra, carved right into the rock, was in the midst of the land held by Edom, though it was carved out later by the Nabateans, an incredibly advanced tribe of Arabs who forced Edom from his home. Edom dwelled in towering mountains and narrow passes where twenty trained warriors could hold off hundreds. He thought himself impregnable and thus his pride knew no bounds.

It is interesting that God began His judgment against Edom by summoning the nations to rise up in battle against him (Obadiah 1). Edom was contemptuous of other nations, holding them in derision. He could not fathom that they could ever breach his fortifications. While these nations would be the tool of God’s wrath, God Himself was

going to see Edom brought down to the ground. *He* was going to be the One to do this (Obadiah 2-4). Edom’s pride was a direct insult to God for God determines the *“allotted periods and boundaries”* of all nations (Acts 17:26), not presumptuous man.

Pride has ever been one of the terrible killers of nations. For your own benefit take the time to read of the role pride played in the downfall of the following nations and cities: Assyria (Zechariah 10:11), Babylon (Jeremiah 50:29, 31-32), Egypt (Ezekiel 30:6), Tyre (Isaiah 23:8-9), Sodom (Ezekiel 16:49), Moab (Isaiah 16:6), Ammon (Zephaniah 2:10), and Philistia (Zechariah 9:6). You and I should especially note that God’s own people did not escape the punishment for their pride: Israel (Hosea 5:5), and Judah (Jeremiah 13:9, 17).

Let us take from these examples that pride always begins with an inflated view of one’s own importance, safety, possessions, intelligence, and abilities. In Edom’s case we will find pride in each of these areas but possessing it in even one is sinful and judgment worthy. Whether it be in this life or in the next the end result of pride will always be the same—destruction. It becomes even more deadly when we consider that its deceptive quality (Obadiah 3a) nearly always causes one to miss its necessary outcome. Proverbs 16:18 informs us that *“pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* Though the proud *may* be knocked from their pedestal in this life, they will most definitely be knocked from it when they stand before the Judgment Seat to answer for their life’s activities (Romans 14:10-12).

I am convinced that the greatest deterrent to pride is the practice of constantly chronicling evidences of our dependence upon God for everything good we enjoy or achieve in this life. From a business and financial perspective one could achieve nothing were it not for God’s blessings of health and mental acumen. As it pertains to our families we are reliant upon God’s granting us love and the blessing of procreation (Psalm 127:3-5). As it pertains to talents and abilities within the church we must remember that they are gifts from God to be used to further His purposes (Romans 12:3-8). As it relates to salvation, God took every step necessary to make salvation possible and revealed to us what we must do to achieve it by His grace and mercy (Romans 5). What place does pride have in the life of the saint? Absolutely none. *“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty’”* (Luke 17:10).

Without his pride, I wonder what would have happened to Edom? With it, I know what will happen to us (Proverbs 16:18). AL

Sermons: (AM) God’s Love—1 (PM) God’s Love--2
Reading: (AM) Mark 13:14-37 (PM) Mark 14:1-21