

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 29

July 8, 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's** mother will give him her kidney later this month. **Julie Patton** continues to recover and rest. **Alexander Litmer** is recovering from his surgery. **Lenny Shepperson** (Troy's uncle) has pancreatic cancer. **Debbie Parker** (Amy Antle's co-worker) is receiving treatment for breast cancer.

### List:

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson,

**Others:** Gaye Brisson, 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, Charlie Little, Doris Baker, Edith Tirey

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
<b>Sun:</b> Pr 6:20-35, Dt 13, Hos 10 Ti 3:12-15	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Mon:</b> Pr 7, Dt 14, Hos 11:1-11, Phil 1-3	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Tue:</b> Pr 8, Dt 15:1-18, Hos 11:12-13:16, Phil 4-7	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Wed:</b> Pr 9, Dt 15:19-16:17, Hos 14, Phil 8-22	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	<u>Wednesday</u>
<b>Thu:</b> Pr 10, Dt 16:18-17:20, Am 1:1-2:5, Phil 23-25		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
<b>Fri:</b> Pr 11-12, Dt 18, Am 2:6-16, Mt 1:1-17	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
<b>Sat:</b> Pr 13-14, Dt 19, Am 3, Mt 1:18-2:12	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
		Pat Seabolt	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
		Matt Thompson	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			(Ask for location)

### **There's A Lesson Here**

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who follows Jesus. But what does it mean to follow Jesus? The word

Christian is found a second time in Acts 26:28. In this verse, King Agrippa asked Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" Paul had not used the word Christian in speaking to King Agrippa. Paul had not said, "I am a Christian," or "I am living the Christian life." So, how did King Agrippa come up with the word Christian? It is certainly possible, perhaps even probable, that the followers of Jesus were well known as Christians by this time. After all it had been several years since they were first called Christians at Antioch. But it is also likely that King Agrippa made a connection between what Paul had been saying just prior to verse 28, and the fact that Paul was a Christian.

What had Paul been saying? Acts 26 begins with King Agrippa giving Paul permission to speak in his own defense. The Jews had charged Paul with being against the Roman government and with disobeying Jewish law. After appealing to Caesar, Paul had languished in prison for two years while Felix, the Governor, conversed with him. Eventually Festus replaced Felix. The Jews renewed their charges against Paul before Festus who listened to Paul and then set in motion the events whereby Paul eventually went to Rome to stand before Caesar. Meanwhile, King Agrippa visited Festus who discussed Paul's case with the King. The next day Paul was brought before the King and was invited to present his defense.

How did Paul go about defending himself? He talked specifically about his conversion. He talked about how Christ appeared to him as Paul sought to harm the Lord's followers. He talked about how zealous he had been from his youth; how he went about persecuting Christians because he fully believed it pleased God. He confessed that he put Christians in prison, beat them, voted for their deaths, and punished them in the synagogues. Then Paul spoke about the change he underwent, how he went from persecution Christians to becoming a Christian. He went from hurting and terrorizing Christians to being hurt and terrorized *because* he was a Christian. King Agrippa, hearing this defense, could not help but be aware of Paul's abrupt and total change. Paul said to the king, "For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am

*"Even these may forget,  
but I will never forget you."*  
Isaiah 49:15b

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*persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”* Then King Agrippa, fully aware of what Paul had experienced in being a follower of Jesus, asked, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who has been converted from a life heading away from God to a life heading toward God, a life of service to God, doing godly things in godly ways, even in the face of the most severe persecution. As Paul said to King Agrippa, “*Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*” (Acts 26:19-20) May others recognize us as Christians because of the converted lives that we live, regardless of how the world treats us.

The Elders

### **The Humbling Of A Wicked Nation—4**

Obadiah has had much to say about the spiritual shortcomings of the ungodly nation of Edom. Jacob’s brother nation was so filled with pride that it consumed his every thought and action. His pride was the seed at the heart of each sin Edom was guilty of committing. Ultimately it caused him to disregard God altogether. In this article we will examine two more sources of his pride.

*“Will I not on that day, declares the Lord, destroy the wise men of out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau? And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman, so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter”* (Obadiah 8-9).

As one considers the testimony of Scripture, it is clear that Edom had gained the reputation for great wisdom and understanding. In Jeremiah 49:7 we read, “*Concerning Edom. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Is wisdom no more in Teman? Has council perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished?*” Many suggest that Teman may have been the capital city of Edom. If it was not the capital it was at least a very influential and reputable city. Both Obadiah and Jeremiah specifically connect wisdom and might with Teman, indicating that it was a city noted for prudence, council, and military might. You may recall that Eliphaz, one of Job’s “comforters” was a Temanite (Job 2:11).

Keep in the mind that Obadiah shows us God removing every source of Edom’s pride. Clearly he gloried in his own wisdom, confident that nothing could possibly arise that he could not overcome through his own council and planning. Scripture informs us that there are only two types of wisdom. There is heavenly wisdom (wisdom from above), and there is demonic wisdom (wisdom from below). Considering the vileness of Edom, it is clear which brand of wisdom he possessed (James 3:13-18).

As we’ve hinted at already, Edom had gained quite a fearsome reputation in battle. Obadiah connects “mighty men” to Teman just as Jeremiah had connected wisdom. There is no question that Edom presented a very formidable, intimidating adversary to anyone brave enough to take him on. Remember that something as fundamental as reaching him was very difficult because of his mountain stronghold (Obadiah 2-4). Should an adversary manage to reach his cities they would need to contend with Edom’s allies coming to aid him. If his allies were not enough Edom could easily dip into his wealth to hire mercenaries to fight on his side (Obadiah 5-7). Added to all of this were the wisdom he possessed and the fearsome warriors he could unleash (Obadiah 8-9). Edom was truly a nation to reckon with!

Unfortunately for him, Jehovah was doing the reckoning! His foolish trust in himself caused Edom to forget that the mightiest of men are helpless before the Lord God Almighty (2 Kings 6:15-18). Edom could gather all of his military men and wise councilors against God and not even begin to frustrate His purposes or overcome His strength (Psalm 68:1-3). Truly it was his trust in his own might and wisdom that helped doom him to an eventual final destruction.

It is imperative that we understand that everything about man, every source of his pride, is incredibly tenuous at best. We sometimes boast in things like our wealth, our health, our possessions, our strength, and our wisdom. Edom possessed each of these in spades. However, there came a time when God simply had enough of his proud arrogance and acted against him. What good did Edom’s wealth, health, possessions, strength, or wisdom do him then? If there is one lesson we must take from Edom it is that placing out complete trust in *anything but God* is the height of foolishness. Wealth, possessions, health, strength, and the mind all eventually fail. God does not.

A favorite passage of mine is Isaiah 49:14-15. “*But Zion says, ‘The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.’ Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*” The bond between a mother and her brand new nursing infant is so strong! Having witnessed it for myself three times now I cannot but marvel at the beauty and devotion of a mother’s love for her baby. God’s love for His people far excels even that. Let us never forget the Father up above looking down in tender love. Let us make *Him* our boast and nothing else.

AL

<b>Sermons:</b>	(AM)	Matt Thompson	(PM)	Adam Daniels
<b>Reading:</b>	(AM)	Mark 14:53-72	(PM)	Mark 15:1-21