

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

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Sun:	Pr 15-16, Dt 20, Am 4, Mt 2:12-23	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Mon:	Pr 17-18, Dt 21:1-22:12, Am 5, Mt 3	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue:	Pr 19-20, Dt 22:13-30, Am 6, Mt 4:1-11	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed:	Pr 21-22, Dt 23:1-14, Am 7-8, Mt 4:12-25	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	Wednesday
Thu:	Pr 23-24, Dt 23:15-25:19, Am 9, Mt 5:1-16		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri:	Pr 25-26, Dt 26, Mic 1-2, Mt 5:17-48	EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
Sat:	Pr 27-28, Dt 27, Mic 3, Mt 6:1-18	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
			Matt Thompson	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
				(Ask for location)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 30

July 15, 2012

There’s A Lesson Here

What is a Christian? What does it mean to follow Jesus? In Acts 11 a Christian has been shown to be one who goes about teaching and preaching Jesus, just as they did in Antioch. A Christian has also been shown, in Acts 26, to be one who lives a converted life, no longer heading away from God, but now moving toward God. The Apostle Peter was inspired to emphasize a different, but no less important, way of describing what a Christian is.

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

“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.” (1 Peter 4:16) A Christian is one who suffers. The kind of suffering under consideration here is not so much the everyday physical suffering that is normal to the human condition. Rather, it is suffering inflicted upon you by others because you are a Christian. Using the language of 1 Peter 4:19, one who suffers as a Christian is one who suffers “according to God’s will;” one who suffers “while doing good.”

God presents as a given that worldly people will hate and persecute his followers. Paul told Timothy, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Mt. 5:11) Peter wrote, in 1 Peter 4:3-4, “For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you.” Again, in 1 Peter 4:12, Christians were cautioned, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” If you desire to live a godly life, expect to be persecuted. If you want to be spiritually blessed, realize that others will speak evil of you. If you hold yourself separate from those who give in to their base passions and lusts, expect to be maligned. Anticipate that the persecution may be severe, a “fiery trial.”

The Christian is one who sees persecution positively, one who recognizes the opportunities contained therein. How can that be? In 1 Peter 4:16 we learn that suffering, as a Christian, is an opportunity to accept it boldly and without shame. In addition,

suffering as a Christian is an opportunity to glorify God in the very name Christian. James 1:2-3 tells us that trials are to be seen as occasions of joy because of the opportunity to have our faith tested and to be proved as steadfast followers of Jesus. Romans 8:17 refers to Christians as children of God and heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *“provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”* And, Matthew 5:12 promises a heavenly reward for receiving persecution with gladness and joy. It’s all a matter of perception, isn’t it? We are not to seek out suffering in some pathological way, but, when it comes, and it will, we should welcome suffering’s opportunities to prove we are indeed followers of Jesus.

The Elders

The Humbling Of A Wicked Nation—5

Thus far in our consideration of Edom we have seen that one of his greatest sins was his overwhelming sense of pride in his location, his possessions, his wisdom, and his might. So proud was he of these things that he held other nations in contempt and lived in open rebellion against God. However, the prophet Obadiah indicates that Edom was guilty of *two* great sins, not just one. While his first terrible sin was pride, the second was his intense hatred of his brother nation. Consider God’s words to Edom from Obadiah 10-14.

“Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of calamity. Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.”

It would not have been possible for Edom to prevent the defeat of his brother nation (either by Babylon or the multiple nations of 2 Chronicles 21:8-18 depending on how one dates Obadiah’s prophecy) because it was designed to be a chastening from God. However, Edom *could* have been there to help pick up the pieces and show some sympathy for his brother after the disaster. Instead he chose to leap into the fray with both feet and become just like the nations routing his brother.

God offered several prohibitions to Edom. He repeatedly told him not to gloat over the suffering of Judah. While Jerusalem suffered, Edom pointed and laughed at his devastation. God told Edom not to rejoice over Jacob’s misfortune. While the calamity engulfed his brother, Edom saw the event as a reason for rejoicing. God told Edom not to enter the gates of Jerusalem. Of course, Edom did not intend to enter as a brother but as a

raider, looting whatever wealth he could find. God told Edom not to stand at the crossroads. It was bad enough that Edom was looting Jacob, but he compounded his sin by making sure his brother could not escape. Finally God told Edom not to deliver his brother over to the enemy as he rounded up whatever survivors managed to escape. Because Edom chose to do all of these things, his humiliation would be perpetual and permanent (Malachi 1:4).

You and I must consider the lessons of Edom’s hatred in relation to how we should treat one another as brethren. David makes a very important statement in Psalm 133:1. *“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”* When brethren unite upon their love for God, His will, and one another it is a marvelous and God pleasing thing. The love of brethren sharing the same precious faith and cherishing the same wonderful hope is a gift from God to His people. It is one of His greatest blessings to us and must be numbered close to the top every time we pause to count our blessings. It is something that must fill our hearts with a gratitude that manifests itself in regular expressions of praise and thankful prayer to God. At the same time it is something that must be worked at and improved upon with the passing of time.

An important point for us to remember comes from the pen of John, where he said, *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love”* (1 John 4:7-8). Our love for one another serves as proof that we love God (John 17:20-21).

It is difficult for us to imagine doing violence to our brethren because we tend to think of violence as physically attacking them. However, let us not forget the violence of inactivity. I can wish you warmth and a hearty meal if you lack those things but if I do not offer them to you when I possess the means to do so I have wounded you and failed in love (James 2:15-16). Never forget that the great sin of our Lord’s judgment scene from Matthew 25:41-46 was not a failure in doctrine or false teaching, it was violence done to the brethren through unloving inactivity.

Edom hated his brother and proved it through his actions. Let us love one another and prove it in every way.

AL

Sermons:	(AM)	Love is patient	(PM)	Matt Thompson
Reading:	(AM)	Mark 15:22-47	(PM)	Mark 16