

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 31

July 22, 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:

**Louis Harrod** is being treated for pneumonia. He also meets with his surgeon tomorrow to discuss plans to deal with an abdominal aneurism. **Julie Patton** continues to recover and rest. **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:** Taylor Osterling, 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 29, Dt 28:1-14, Mic 4, Mt 6:19-24	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>Mon:</b> Pr 30:1-31:9, Dt 28:15-68, Mic 5, Mt 6:25-34	Garry Banks	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Tue:</b> Pr 31:10-31, Dt 29:1-30:10, Mic 6, Mt 7:1-12	David Collins	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Wed:</b> Ec 1:1-3, Dt 30:11-20, Mic 7:1-13, Mt 7:13-29	John Thompson	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>Thu:</b> Ec 1:4-11, Dt 31:1-29, Mic 7:14-20, Mt 8		Bible Study: 7:30 PM
<b>Fri:</b> Ec 1:12-18, Dt 31:30-32:47, Na 1, Mt 9	<b>EVANGELIST</b>	<b>1st Fri. of Month</b>
<b>Sat:</b> Ec 2:1-11, Dt 32:48-33:29, Na 2:1-3:4, Mt 10	Adam Litmer	Singing: 7:30 PM
		<b>3rd Fri. of Month</b>
		Bible Study: 7:00 PM
		(Ask for location)

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

Parents thrill at watching their children grow. Certain events, such as turning over, taking the first step, saying the first words, learning to read, graduating from high school, and so on, provide fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, and grandparents much about which to brag. They are the happenings that mark the progress of the child's physical, mental, and emotional growth. No one who loves the child wants to be confronted with a diagnosis of failure to thrive.

*"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."*  
Proverbs 15:3

However, growth should not be considered as something that only happens to children. Anyone, at any stage of life, can be said to have a failure to thrive, if progress appropriate to that stage of life is not taking place. Growth is essential, not only in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense as well.

When one first becomes a Christian, he or she is a "babe in Christ." No one can doubt the importance of proper nourishment needed for that newborn spiritual baby to grow. *"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation"*—(1 Peter 2:2). Without a steady diet of the words of life contained in the Bible, a new Christian will suffer from a failure to thrive spiritually. There is no telling how many newborn Christians have died spiritually due to a failure to thrive.

But what about Christians who are older and more mature? Regardless of how old you are or how long you have been a Christian, are you still growing? Is spiritual growth any less important for you than it is for a babe in Christ? Without a doubt, a failure to thrive spiritually is just as potentially disastrous for you as it is for the newborn Christian? Consider 2 Peter 3:18, which says, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Was this letter written primarily to newborn Christians, or to those who had been Christians for some time? 2 Peter 1:2 identifies the recipients of this letter as *"those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours."* Verse 12 further refers to the recipients as those who knew certain qualities and were established in them. Those qualities are faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love, and considerable time is needed for one to be established in them. So,

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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even though the letter is written primarily to well-established Christians, Peter is still exhorting them to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*.

May we never cease learning about Jesus so that we might become more and more like him. “More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern; Spirit of God my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me....More about Jesus in His word, Holding communion with my Lord; Hearing His voice in every line, Making each faithful saying mine.” Noah was a righteous man, one who walked with God, and thus found favor in the eyes of the Lord. We, too, will grow in God’s favor as growth in knowledge translates into living righteously.

The Elders

### **The Humbling Of A Wicked Nation—6**

Thus far in our examination of the nation of Edom we have seen nothing to commend him. His arrogance, pride, contempt, and hatred are forever exhibited by God as what a people should not be. We have seen that everything he prided himself in would fail when God chose to contend against him. God inspires the prophet Obadiah to let Edom know that the time of his reckoning was terrifyingly near. All of his opportunities to repent and change his ways had been squandered. At last it was time for him to reap what he had sown.

*“For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; and your deeds shall return upon your own head. For as you have drunk on my hold mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been”* (Obadiah 15-16).

The “day of the Lord” is often mentioned in the Old Testament Scriptures. It described a day(s) in which Jehovah manifests Himself mightily in the defeat of those who oppose Him. It is a day of terror to His enemies but deliverance to the righteous. However, even those who were once righteous but had decided to turn away from the Lord could find themselves on the wrong end of the day of the Lord (Amos 5:18-20). Through long practice and a set mind Edom had established himself as a nation characterized by continuous evil. In essence his “fullness of time” had come and it was his turn to face a day of the Lord.

The immediate context continues cataloguing Edom’s crimes against his brother nation during their time of turmoil. Edom had treated Jacob horribly and God says that he had drunk on the Lord’s holy mountain. Whether Edom had literally desecrated God’s holy mountain through some drunken celebration gloating over his brother’s humiliation, or whether this is a figurative idea expressing his violent treatment of Jacob throughout the entire ordeal, the point remains the same—it was time for Edom to taste his own medicine.

Multiple nations would take part in the destruction of Edom. Multiple nations would help themselves to all those sources of pride Edom boasted about. While Edom had drunk

on the Lord’s holy mountain, the nations would come and partake of Edom. Edom would not only be drunk by the nations, he would be swallowed and consumed by them. By the time of Jesus Christ Edom had entirely lost his identity and had been absorbed by the nations. God’s judgments are certain.

There have been so many “days of the Lord” throughout the history of man. There is still one to come in the future that will end them all. The consistent teaching of Scripture is that a great and terrible Day is coming in which all people of all nations of all times will stand before God to give an accounting of the things that they have done in their lives (Romans 14:10-12). The faithful Christian, the backslider, the scoffer, and the unbeliever will all be there on that Day. Denying it is pointless. Edom could not conceive that a day of the Lord was coming upon him, and yet it did. Before all is said and done every man and woman who has ever existed will experience the Day of the Lord.

Galatians 6:7 says, *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”* We can point to the atheist and the skeptic and easily see how they attempt to mock God. However, let us not imagine that Christians cannot seek to do the same. Does not a Christian seek to outwit God in some way when he lives a life of sin and expects to die the death of the righteous? Is God deceived by mere words? If I spend my days awash in immorality and yet declare my faith in the Lord with a hearty “praise God” on Sunday and Wednesday, have my words somehow screened God from seeing what I do the remainder of the week? Does it cause Him to ignore my behavior? Consider:

*“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”* (Proverbs 15:3)

*“Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”* (Proverbs 20:6)

*“I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.”* (Isaiah 1:13a)

Passages like these could be easily multiplied. Edom sought to mock God through idolatry, pride, and hatred of his brother nation. We can seek to mock God through our behavior, claiming to be one thing and proving ourselves something else entirely through our actions. The problem with this is that God is simply not mocked. Let’s not try!

AL

**Sermons:** (AM) Love is kind (PM) “I Will Turn Aside To See This Great Sight”

**Reading:** (AM) Luke 1:1-20 (PM) Luke 1:21-38