

University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 40

September 23, 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:

John Thompson has returned home. He will need prayers as he regains strength and deals with pain. **Julie Spivey** was set to have her tonsillectomy on Tuesday. Recovering from that surgery is quite painful for adults. Let us keep her in our prayers and see if we may help the family in some way over the next few weeks. **Fred Dalton** (Adam Daniels' uncle) had his surgery. He has lymphoma and his treatment has yet to be determined. Let us remember he and his family through what promises to be a difficult time.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Louis Harrod, Julie Patton

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Taylor Osterling, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Sandy Childress, Mary Wilson, Charlie Little, Doris Baker, Edith Tirey, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Gladys Dunbar

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Sun: Ps 25, 1 Sm 14, Lm 5, 2 Pe 1:12-21	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Mon: Ps 26, 1 Sm 15, Hab 1:1-11, 2 Pe 2	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue: Ps 27, 1 Sm 16, Hab 1:12-2:20, 2 Pe 3	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed: Ps 28, 1 Sm 17, Hab 3, Lk 1:1-25	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Thu: Ps 29, 1 Sm 18, Dn 1, Lk 1:26-56		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri: Ps 30, 1 Sm 19, Dn 2, Lk 1:57-80	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
Sat: Ps 31, 1 Sm 20, Dn 3, Lk 2:1-21	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)

When Dreams Don't Come True

By Paul Earnhart

“Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue; and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.” So sings Dorothy longingly in *The Wizard Of Oz*. In a world of heart-crushing disappointments everyone longs for a life with a “happy ending.” It is a uniquely human thing to dream dreams—to be able to imagine the ideal and long for it. And God, far from discouraging our longings, has put a vision of the future in our hearts which is free of suffering and sin, a life of unending joy and peace (Revelation 21:3-8). Paul assures us that our imagination in its wildest flight is incapable of overstretching the bounds of what God can do to transform our lives (Ephesians 3:20). We are encouraged to dream great dreams of what we can become and accomplish in the power of God's Son (Philippians 4:13).

It is true that frequently we have dreamed the wrong dream. The Lord has duly warned us about that (Jude 8). The lust of the flesh, the hunger for things, is not capable of being satisfied when made life's reigning passion, and will result in a nightmare of emptiness (Ecclesiastes 5:10; 6:7; James 4:1-3). We must learn to dream God's dream—to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Yet, those who have dreamed the great dream are not to be faulted for having other hopes and aspirations that attend upon it. Bright expectations for active and fruitful service. Earnest visions of happy homes, faithful companions, godly sons and daughters. Unlike heaven, however, these cannot be assured. Absolutely nothing can steal away our ultimate hope (as long as we treasure it above all else) but there is no such guarantee about the way we reach it. Sometimes cherished hopes for our lives are smashed. What are God's people to do when their dreams are simply lost irretrievably?

Gospel Meeting

Our gospel meeting begins today! Have we made our plans to attend? Who do we intend to invite?

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We are not the first to wrestle with deep disappointment over the course our lives have taken. The Scriptures are full of examples. What of the hopes and dreams of that faithful young man, Abel? Can it not be imagined that he wanted a family; and that he dreamed of living a long and faithful life in the service of the God he worshipped? But, of course, it did not turn out that way. The “seed” of woman (Genesis 3:15) was to be the descendant of Seth, not Abel. And what of Stephen, and James the apostle? These men must have had dreams, too.

But perhaps those who lived out their full lives with their hopes unfulfilled faced an even greater challenge. I have often wondered what visions of the future must have filled the mind of the young Jeremiah while he grew up in Anathoth. It would only be natural that the son of a priest should dream of serving God in a place of honor before the altar in Jerusalem. Perhaps, too, he looked forward to marriage and to children. He seems to be the kind of man who would have cherished family life. But though Jeremiah had lived a long life none of these things were ever to be. He was destined to serve God, not in a place of esteem, but in a miry pit of degradation. He seems to have been more often in prison than in the Temple. Instead of love he came to know hatred and abuse even from his own close friends and kinsmen. Plots were hatched against his life. And there was to be no wife and no children (Jeremiah 16:1-2). He dreaded his calling as a prophet and felt inadequate for the task (1:6). The experiences of a young man were denied him because his harsh message made him an outcast (15:17). At times the burdens of his isolation almost overwhelmed him with despair (20:7-18). Jeremiah evidently died in Egypt—an aged man amidst a company of faithless Jews who carried him there against his will. Tradition has it that he was stoned to death. These are not the things a young man’s dreams are made of.

And what of Samuel who as a young lad saw the tragedy of Eli’s sons (1 Samuel 2:17-26; 3:10-14), and yet lived to see his own sons repeat the same folly (8:1-3). What a bitter disappointment this must have been to their godly father.

So what are we to do when many of our dreams turn into nightmares? What are we to do when we are overwhelmed by heartbreak almost to despair? We are to what multitudes of faithful men and women have done before us. We are to endure—trust God and endure. We are to remember that it will serve no purpose to throw our lives on the funeral bier of our lost dreams. We have dreamed a greater dream than these and it is imperative that we never turn loose of it.

It only takes a few minutes to read of the lives of these godly men and women who preceded us, but we need to remember that it took years for them to live them. Their trials often went on endlessly. They compass us about as a great cloud of witnesses to the truth that by the power of God we, too, can patiently see our troubles through to the end (Hebrews 12:1). And we need to remember that we will not always see our trials as we do now. Heaven will swallow up everything. After we have lived a few “years” in heaven, we will not even remember what it was like to suffer. Paul said it plainly: “*For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to usward*” (Romans 8:18). We can know that only by faith. Endure, my dear brother and sister. It will be worth it!

What Person Will God Accept?

“Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully...Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob” (Psalm 24:3-4, 6).

Have you ever considered how this passage spells out precisely whom our God will accept? Consider:

- God accepts the one who abstains from evil acts.
- God accepts the one who abstains from evil thoughts.
- God accepts the one who abstains from evil affections.
- God accepts the one who remembers the vows that he has made both to God and man.
- God remembers the one who regularly kneels in prayer.

These three verses describe a very godly and righteous individual. This is the person that our God welcomes with open arms and counts as a friend. Do these three verses describe you and I?

Sermons: (AM) Is it possible to find peace? (PM) Is being a good person enough?

Reading: (AM) Luke 7:30-50 (PM) Luke 8:1-21