

University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 42

October 7, 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:

Frank and Julie Patton were scheduled to meet their babies yesterday! This bulletin is written on Friday morning so anticipate an update today. **Dawn Rutledge** is suffering with acute leukemia. **Bill Childress** (Janet's father) had successful gall bladder surgery.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, John Thompson

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, Fred Dalton

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Sun: Ps 32, 1 Sam 21-22, Dn 4, Lk 2:22-52	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Mon: Ps 33, 1 Sam 23-24, Dn 5, Lk 3:1-22	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue: Ps 34, 1 Sam 25, Dn 6, Lk 3:23-4:13	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed: Ps 35, 1 Sam 26, Dn 7, Lk 4:14-44	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Thu: Ps 36, 1 Sam 27, Dn 8, Lk 5:1-6:16		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri: Ps 37, 1 Sam 28, Dn 9, Lk 6:17-49	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
Sat: Ps 38, 1 Sam 29-30, Dn 10:1-11:1, Lk 7:1-35	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)

Note

Brother Jaime Restrepo will be here this Wednesday to discuss his work during the class period.

Considering The Prophets--1

Romans 15:4 says, “*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*” The next few articles will be designed to motivate us to consider the prophets as an important and viable option in our personal Bible study. I believe that there has been a general neglect in the study of these men and I suppose that there are several reasons for it. With few exceptions, whenever we determine to examine the prophets we are going to be delving into the Old Testament. As a rule, most Christians are not nearly so familiar with the Old Testament as they are with the New. This is understandable, and even acceptable to a certain extent, yet there are verses like Galatians 3:24 which show us the importance of the Old Law and what it was designed to do. “*Wherefore the law was our school master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*” (KJV).

It also seems to me that there is a little trepidation for many Christians in digging into the prophets. After all, the prophets use many figures of speech that are just not as common to us as they were to their original audience. The prophets are prone to occasional fits of hyperbole that sometimes cause us to wonder if something they have said is to be taken literally or not. Also, it is not always an easy thing to decipher the meaning and intention of some of the prophecies these men utter (consider Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah as examples). To all of this we must add the fact that many of today's millennialists feel free to pick and choose the words of some of these men, wrest them from their context, add them to a part of Revelation, and make them appear to mean things that the Holy Spirit never intended for them to mean. This serves only to add to the confusion and hesitation that many feel when approaching the prophets.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257 – www.uheightschurch.com

One Christian said to me that he doesn't really think there is much good in studying the prophets. "After all," went his reasoning, "the prophecies that are valid for us today are all repeated in the New Testament and explained there so there is no need to study the Old Testament prophets." I believe he was wrong on both assertions. There are very valid reasons for studying about these men and their prophecies today.

First, from a historical perspective alone, they are invaluable. Political activities and mindsets of the day are revealed by them, and many times *only* by them, and we simply cannot get that information anywhere else. They were eyewitnesses to the social condition of ancient Palestine (as well other portions of the ancient world) and wrote with the confidence, authority, and accuracy that historians writing centuries later simply have no way to match. It is also from the prophets that we learn the type of impact religion had on their society.

Many Christians fail to consider the ease by which we may draw application for our own lives by studying theirs. They faced the same sort of problems that we face today. They faced sins of justice, compassion, and hypocrisy just as we face them now. While God's manner of action has obviously changed throughout the centuries, His attitude to the obedient and the disobedient have not. Recall Romans 11:22. "*Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.*" It is made abundantly clear from the prophets that God was overseeing the affairs of men in their time. Nothing has changed today.

Let's not fail to consider the amount of inspiration we can glean from the men themselves. The prophets are some of the greatest servants of Jehovah to have ever graced this earth. They possessed courage in their convictions that, sadly, many Christians of our time fail to match. While I know it includes more than just the prophets as the text itself shows, I think of Hebrews 11:32-40 as the Holy Spirit's commendation to those unknown, nameless prophets who sacrificed it all to be Jehovah's spokesmen. "*And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some*

were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated--of whom the world was not worthy--wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God has provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect."

After the people demanded their king and God consented to their wish, there always seemed to be at least one faithful prophet among the people every step of the way. When the kingdom was united, the prophets were there speaking the words of God. When the kingdom divided, the prophets were there speaking the words of God. When the two kingdoms began their methodical, inexorable marches away from God and His Law, there were the prophets, every step of the way, urging the people to turn back before it was too late. When the captivities occurred, there were the prophets speaking the words of God. When Judah returned, there were the prophets speaking the words of God. And we can rest absolutely assured that for every prophet whose name we have recorded, there were others whose name did not find its way into the Sacred Text who were just as faithful in telling the people God's message for them. Their loyalty to God rather than self serves as a stark reminder to us and can help strengthen us.

How often do you open your Bible to consider God's message to Edom through the prophet Obadiah? Edom's arrogant pride is seen in our country now. How often do you note God's message to His people to get back to work on *His* things rather than their own through the prophet Haggai? Far too often we Christians become so consumed with our own pursuits that we tend to let God's work gather dust on a shelf. How does God feel about and respond to sinful nations? You'll find it in the prophets. Is it possible to remain faithful while surrounded by extreme ungodliness? Consult the prophets to find the answer. May these articles move you to study these extraordinary men. AL

Sermons: (AM) "Love never ends" (PM) "You shall carry up my bones from here"
Reading: (AM) Luke 9:1-22 (PM) Luke 9:23-43