

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:

Let’s remember **the Tirey family** after the death of sister Edith. **Louis Harrod** continues to recover from his surgery. **Chase Hamilton** (nephew of one of Terry’s coworkers) is battling leukemia. His health is very fragile right now.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Julie and the babies, Arlena Poynter, Roberta Morelan

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Dawn Rutledge, Sandy Childress, Mary Wilson, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Taylor Osterling

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Sun:	Ps 69, 1 Kg 4, Ez 31, Ro 3:21-32	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Mon:	Ps 70, 1 Kg 5, Ez 32, Ro 4	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue:	Ps 71, 1 Kg 6, Ez 33, Ro 5:1-11	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed:	Ps 72, 1 Kg 7, Ez 34, Ro 5:12-21	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	Wednesday
Thu:	Ps 73, 1 Kg 8:1-21, Ez 35, Ro 6		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri:	Ps 74, 1 Kg 8:22-66, Ez 36, Ro 7	EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
Sat:	Ps 75, 1 Kg 9:1-9, Ez 37, Ro 8:1-17	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 48

November 18, 2012

There’s A Lesson Here

The difficulties of life can often seem overwhelming, well beyond one’s capability to overcome. Persisting over time, those problems and difficulties have perhaps defied all of your attempts to get a handle on them, exhausting all available resources. Family members, having tired of hearing about your problems, inwardly groan when you voice them all over again. Friends look for escape routes when you are nearby, having moved well past their initial attempts to help you. You feel isolated, helpless to solve your problems, beaten down, and sorely tempted to give up. You are all alone.

“I bear branded on my body the marks of Christ.”

Galatians 6:17b

But, are you really all alone? Suppose you are correct in your conclusion that there is no longer any help available from family and friends. Suppose it is true that nothing has worked and your problems loom larger than ever. Are you, then, absolutely deserted, abandoned, isolated, totally on your own? The answer is a resounding “No!”

King David was a man with multiple, severe problems, and in so many of his psalms he gave voice to them. In Psalm 118, he wrote, *All nations surrounded me...They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side...They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns...I was pushed hard, so that I was falling. (verses 10-13)* David could very well have concluded that he was utterly and irrevocably defeated, that he was all alone. But he did not.

In Psalm 118:5-7 David wrote, *“Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.”* David knew he

had an Ally more powerful than all the forces arrayed against him. He did not see defeat awaiting him, but victory. No doubt he repeated the refrain over and over again: *“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*

Temptation is the single greatest problem facing Christians. All of the accidents, tragedies, disasters, disappointments in other people, health and mental health issues, and so on, not only seem insurmountable problems in and of themselves, but they make us highly vulnerable to temptation. It is when we are feeling all alone and ready to give up that we find Satan’s solutions to our problems most attractive. Like David, we need to remember that we, too, have an ally beyond compare.

Consider Hebrews 13:1-6. *“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”*

The Elders

Marks Of Jesus

By Dan Shipley

“Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the marks of Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17). With these words the apostle Paul concludes his remarks concerning the circumcision which the Judaizing teachers were seeking to bind upon Christians. In contrast to this body-mark insisted upon by these Jews as proof of obedience, Paul offers his “marks of Jesus” as a truer trademark of allegiance. As with warriors of old, these scars were Paul’s badges of honor. They were evidence of being on active duty for the King. They proved dedicated involvement for Jesus.

The conflict, which scarred the body of Paul, continues. Every faithful follower of Christ stands on the same battlefield—one that is stained with

the blood of the Savior Himself. Loyalty to Christ and His gospel makes opposition unavoidable. The soldier of the cross not only abstains from sinful practices, he boldly reproves them (Eph5:11). Following Christ means entering the arena of conflict, and to live godly in Him is to suffer persecution (2 Tim 3:12).

As the conflict continues, so do the casualties. Those who will stand where Paul stood need not expect to escape unscathed. They too will incur “marks of Jesus” just as real, if not as apparent, as Paul’s. For some, allegiance to Christ has meant a divided family (Matt. 10:34-37). For others it has meant the deep wounds of a severed friendship. None can deny the hurt and injuries inflicted by hostile and vindictive brethren. Sincere hearts have been cut deeply by slanderous tongues. Such wounds have inevitable scars which abide for a lifetime.

But not every man who suffers does so as a Christian and not all marks are of Jesus. Even false teachers encounter opposition and conflict which they construe as proof of their faithfulness. Suffering, in itself, is no more a sign of loyalty than circumcision. Error, no doubt, can boast as many martyrs as truth, but in no way does this enhance error or those who die for it.

Marks of Jesus are incurred only as the result of faithfulness to Him as His word. Conflict and its fruits will not be sought by Christians for it will surely come in following Christ. The faithful must learn to *expect* sufferings, persecutions, injustices, social pressure, railings, and reprisals from within and without. In fact, they should be more surprised when they don’t come than when they do. Take a moment to read Matthew 5:10-11.

The marks we avoid by doing and/or saying nothing may be the very marks we need to enter heaven.

Sermons: (AM) Preserving A Marriage (PM) The Importance Of Proclamation

Reading: (AM) Luke 14:1-24 (PM) Luke 14:25-15:10