

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 49

November 25, 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:

Let's remember **the Tirey family** after the death of sister Edith. **Deborah Moody** continues to struggle with back trouble.

### 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

<p><b><u>WEEKLY READING</u></b></p> <p><b>Sun:</b> Ps 76, 1 Kg 9:10-10:29, Ez 38, Ro 8:18-39</p> <p><b>Mon:</b> Ps 77, 1 Kg 11, Ez 39, Ro 9:1-29</p> <p><b>Tue:</b> Ps 78, 1 Kg 12:1-15, Ez 40, Ro 9:30-10:21</p> <p><b>Wed:</b> Ps 79, 1 K6 12:16-33, Ez 41-42, Ro 11</p> <p><b>Thu:</b> Ps 80, 1 Kg 13, Ez 43, Ro 12</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> Ps 81, 1 Kg 14:1-20, Ez 44, Ro 13</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> Ps 82, 1 Kg 14:21-15:24, Ez 45, Ro 14</p>	<p><b><u>LEADERSHIP</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b><u>ELDERS</u></b></p> <p>Garry Banks David Collins John Thompson</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b><u>DEACONS</u></b></p> <p>Troy Antle Richard Brundige Neal Erickson Adam Litmer Bill Morelan Jim Parsons Pat Seabolt Matt Thompson</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p><b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b></p> <p>Adam Litmer</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b><u>ELDERS</u></b></p> <p>Garry Banks David Collins John Thompson</p>	<p><b><u>DEACONS</u></b></p> <p>Troy Antle Richard Brundige Neal Erickson Adam Litmer Bill Morelan Jim Parsons Pat Seabolt Matt Thompson</p>	<p><b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b></p> <p>Adam Litmer</p>		<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday</u></b> Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b> Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></b> Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></b> Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Ask for location)</p>
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### **There's A Lesson Here**

King David, the prophets Jeremiah and Habakkuk, and the psalmist Asaph all registered the same complaint with God. They could not help but witness the prosperity and abundance experienced by the wicked and ungodly people around them. Jeremiah expressed his complaint this way: *"Righteous are you, O Lord, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive"* (Jeremiah 12:1)?

Asaph went into considerable more detail in his complaint, giving God a lengthy list of the ways the wicked prosper, as if God didn't already know. *"Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind"* (Psalm 73:1-5).

Isn't that sometimes our own reaction to the prosperity of the wicked and ungodly? Perhaps a coworker gets promoted ahead of you, not because he or she did such a superior job, but by bad-mouthing all those he works with. Maybe your neighbor, friend, or other family member tells you about the enormous tax refund obtained by cheating on his tax form. Suppose you learn that your best friend is working under the table and does not report any of that income to the IRS. Or maybe you read a biography telling you that a certain family obtained its wealthy through unfair labor practices, exploitation of the bad fortunes of others, manipulation of government officials, and a myriad of other evil dealings. Wickedness is all around us working to victimize anything and everything in

### **Note**

The auditorium class will begin studying the book of Daniel next Sunday. Please pick up material on Wednesday.

## **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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order to gain more wealth, more power, and more control. It is no wonder that God's people sometimes complain: Why do the wicked prosper? But God has provided a way for His people to get beyond focusing too much on the earthly prosperity of the wicked.

Let's go to Psalm 37. *"Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!...Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil"* (Verses 1, 7, 8). Everybody worries about one thing or another. So, what is the big deal? The big deal is what fretting can do to us for it is highly self-damaging. To fret is to not just feel or express worry, annoyance, or discontent. To fret is to cause corrosion; to gnaw into something; it is to become eaten and worn away. When we fret over the prosperity of the wicked, we do them no damage. The damage is to us. Our fretting gnaws into us; we become eaten, corroded, and worn away, of no use to ourselves or to God.

How do we "fret not"? Again, the answer lies throughout Psalm 37, as well as elsewhere in God's word. Here is a smattering of what is contained in this marvelous Psalm: *"Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday"* (Verses 3-6).

Read the rest of this Psalm to your eternal welfare. The Elders

### **The Ox Law**

By Robert Turner

*"And if an ox gore a man or a woman to death, the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be quit. But if the ox was wont to gore in time past, and it hath been testified to its owner, and he hath not kept it in, but it hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death"* (Exodus 21:28-29)

The Old Testament "Ox Law" emphasizes the responsibility of those who own, promote, or control that which has great potential. The danger in

that which is powerful is not a valid argument against growth, but we have a responsibility to others to control that power. Should our ox inadvertently gore, *"the ox shall be stoned"*, but we are free. We must take no profit (flesh) from the proven evil.

But some things show a tendency to go astray. Their history is a record of blood warnings; and *"when it hath been testified"* that our pet ox *"was wont to gore"*, what then? Shall we ridicule him who warns as a self-appointed watchmen lacking in love? There are poorly informed and over zealous watchmen, but there are far more willfully ignorant people. History may be abused and the fallacy of generalization may lead us to false conclusions; but he is foolish indeed who ignores the records. In the absence of fore-sight, we must use all available hind-sight to profit.

Why would anyone made aware of a proven danger fail to curb this ox? The two most obvious reasons are selfish pride and cold indifference toward others. One may contend that the ends justifies the means, but his plea is smothered in the decree of Divine justice. While he boasts of the good done, the Lord is looking at the remains of his neighbor, impaled upon the cruel horn of his instrument for doing (Romans 3:8).

*"The ox shall be stoned AND ITS OWNER SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH."* God shall destroy the instrument for wrongdoing, but He will not stop there. God shall not hold guiltless those who ignore valid warnings, and promote, encourage, and profit by that which *"was wont to gore."* Brother, have you an ox that needs corralling?

**Sermons:** (AM) Preserving A Marriage 2 (PM) Beware the easy road!

**Reading:** (Am) Luke 15:11-32

(PM) Luke 16:1-18