

University Heights Messenger

Volume 4--Number 52

December 16, 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:

Deborah Moody continues to struggle with back trouble.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Arlena, The Tirey family

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

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Sun: Ps 97, 2 Kg 6:1-23, Zec 10, Jn 3:1-21	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Mon: Ps 98, 2 Kg 6:24-7:2-, Zec 11, Jn 3:22-36	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue: Ps 99, 2 Kg 8, Zec 12-13, Jn 4:1-42	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed: Ps 100, 2 Kg 9, Zec 14, Jn 4:43-5:18	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	Wednesday
Thu: Ps 101, 2 Kg 10, Mal 1:1-2:9, Jn 5:19-47		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri: Ps 102, 2 Kg 11, Mal 2:10-17, Jn 6:1-21	EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
Sat: Ps 103, 2 Kg 12, Mal 3:1-12, Jn 6:22-71	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
		Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
		Matt Thompson	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			(Ask for location)

There's A Lesson Here

Ants and bees share a couple of important characteristics, and we would be wise to consider their ways.

They appear to be constantly active, so active, in fact, that one must wonder when they rest. Bees are always moving industriously from place to place. Even when they alight on a flower it is not to rest but to extract the nectar. Ants, likewise, are continuously scurrying, often dragging along a morsel twice their size. So instructive are ants, that the writer of Proverbs says, *"Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest."* (6:6-8)

Does anyone doubt the commitment of ants and bees to their purpose in life? Would anyone accuse them of being sluggards, slothful, lazy? Why do we not notice lazy ants or bees, if there even are any? Could it be that slothful ants and bees do not last long? They simply do not survive. The writer of Proverbs furnishes us with highly graphic and instructive descriptions of the consequences of slothfulness. Consider the following: *"The sluggard says, 'There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!' As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.* (26:13-16)

"I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all over- grown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." (24:30-34)

Since Proverbs is inspired scripture, the writer is not just expressing his own view of laziness, but, most importantly, God's view. Furthermore, God's view of laziness takes in one's zeal and activity in both the secular and the spiritual.

Prayers

We will have many traveling over the next few weeks. Let us be sure to pray for their safety.

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Colossians 3:23 says, *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”* First, make sure that your activity is in accordance with God’s will, and then do it heartily; do it heartily all of the time, not intermittently. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”* When has God ever approved of anything less than our best?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 tells us that we have no right to expect to win the prize if we are not running the race with a total commitment to winning. *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.” (Matthew 22:37-38). The key word here is “all.” The Elders

National Security?

Last Thursday I had the opportunity to take part in a study of Nahum. Nahum prophesied about Assyria and specifically Assyria’s capital city, Nineveh. The book is a sort of “sequel” to Jonah. About a hundred years before Nahum Nineveh had repented through the reluctant preaching of Jonah. By the time Nahum arrived on the scene things in Nineveh had gotten so bad that God had determined it was time for them to suffer one of the terrible “days of the Lord.”

A wicked nation suffering God’s vengeful judgment (Nahum 1:2) is certainly not unique to Nahum. We can read of the prophets delivering God’s message of judgment to Edom, Philistia, Moab, Babylon, Egypt, and many others. In the case of Nahum’s prophesy, God seems to take special care to point out that it was when Assyria was at her strongest that He would see her humbled. Nahum 1:12-13 says, *“Thus says the Lord, ‘Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart.’”*

Truly Assyria was as strong as they were only because God permitted it. Though Assyria had destroyed Israel and provided a constant threat to Judah, God wanted His people to know that He was using the wicked Assyrian’s as a chastening rod. When Assyrian iniquity became complete God broke Assyria’s yoke from off Judah’s neck and

burst their bonds apart. The point I want us to get is this: *there was nothing Assyria could do about it.*

Take a moment to read Nahum 2 (only 13 verses). Did you see listed all that Nineveh trusted in? Their walls were strong, their soldiers were mighty, their chariots were many, their officers were skilled, and their wealth was immense. They were described as lions! Yet verse 13 makes the one statement that rendered all of Assyria’s assets useless—*“Behold, I am against you, declares the Lord of hosts.”*

Friends, when God is against a nation there is no such thing as national security. Nineveh’s wall could have stood a mile high, all of her soldiers could have stood as tall as Goliath, gold and precious metals could have filled the streets for lack of space to store such immense wealth, all of her allies could have stood at the gates, her chariots could have numbered in the millions with the most skillful soldiers to man them, all of her horses could have been of the finest stock, and every nation could have trembled in terror beholding her. Yet the simple fact that she made God her enemy doomed her and all she trusted in for her security was as useless as a miniscule whisper of wind against a mighty oak. Because Nineveh’s security was not based upon God Nineveh was not secure at all.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stay awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1). Friends, where is your security? Upon what do you base your trust? Jehovah prompted Nineveh to keep her trust where it had been and see the result. In Nahum 3:14 He says, *“Draw water for the siege; strengthen your forts; go into the clay; tread the mortar; take hold of the brick mold!”* She had always trusted in her provisions and the strength of her city. Jehovah urged her to keep it up. Grab some water, gather the material to make bricks, and just keep strengthening that wall. Surely no one could touch them behind the wall, right? Verse 15 says, *“There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust.”*

Nineveh’s national security was an illusion, nothing more. She rejected true security and was destroyed because of it. Her destruction was so thorough, so complete, that the location of that once majestic city was not discovered until 1842. Such is the “security” of those who reject God. AL

Sermons: (AM) Secure in Jehovah

(PM) Matt Thompson preaching

Reading: (Am) Luke 18:18-43

(PM) Luke 19:1-25