

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 3

January 20, 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

List:

Dorothy Fields (Shirley’s sister) passed on to her reward early last week. Let us keep her family in our prayers. **John Thompson’s** aunt passed away several days ago. Let’s remember John and the family in our prayers. A mass has been discovered on the brainstem of **Reese Worley** (Ron and Sharon’s granddaughter). The family is meeting with various doctors to determine the next step. **Star Jamerson** is recovering from a heart transplant.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Deborah Moody

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><u>WEEKLY READING</u> Sun: Ps 131, Jb 18, Is 40, Rev 1 Mon: Ps 132, Jb 19, Is 41, Rev 2 Tue: Ps 133, Jb 20, Is 42, Rev 3 Wed: Ps 134, Jb 21, Is 43:1-44:5, Rev 4 Thu: Ps 135, Jb 22, Is 44:6-28, Rev 5 Fri: Ps 136, Jb 23-24, Is 45, Rev 6 Sat: Ps 137, Jb 25-26, Is 46-47, Rev 7:1-8:5</p>	<p><u>LEADERSHIP</u></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>ELDERS</u></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>DEACONS</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garry Banks</td> <td>Troy Antle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Collins</td> <td>Richard Brundige</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Thompson</td> <td>Matt Thompson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Adam Litmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>EVANGELIST</u></td> <td>Bill Morelan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Litmer</td> <td>Jim Parsons</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pat Seabolt</td> </tr> </table>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	David Collins	Richard Brundige	John Thompson	Matt Thompson		Adam Litmer	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons		Pat Seabolt	<p><u>SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>1st Fri. of Month</u> Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u> Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Finished for the time being)</p>
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There’s A Lesson Here

Tragedy pays no attention as to when it occurs. Man designates certain times of the year as times of celebration and great happiness, packed full of meaning and tradition. Tragedy will happen during these times just as it happens at any time during the year. When tragedy does strike during those special times of the year it usually destroys the happiness of the holiday. The holiday, then, becomes a time in which one relives the tragedy that occurred at that time. Needless to say, bad things can happen to anyone at any time resulting in the loss of one’s joy in life.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”
1 Timothy 1:15

But, with God in one’s life, tragedy can be turned into triumph. The promise of victory permeates the Bible, and we would be wise to begin the new year with the resolve to maximize that victory. Let’s consider the man God chose to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul said of himself, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*” (1 Timothy 1:15) Why would Paul see himself as the chief of sinners? No doubt it had to do with his persecution of the followers of Jesus which he did before he became a Christian. He did not just persecute Christians; he did it with great zeal and enthusiasm. And he regretted it to his dying day. The fact that he did it in all good conscience did not reduce his regret. Surely he considered his actions to have been tragic. But he turned that tragedy into triumph when he became a Christian and he was able to fill his mind with the fact that he had been saved and would inherit all of the eternal blessings promised by God. When he said that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*, he was saying, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save me, Paul.”

God does not see degrees of sin. Therefore, any sinner, regardless of what he has done, can gain access to eternal victory by becoming a Christian. “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” (2 Corinthians 5:17) “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Romans 6:3-4) If you are not a Christian, wouldn’t it be wonderful to begin the new year by becoming a new creature by being baptized into Jesus Christ?

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But there are many other tragedies that occur. They tempt us and try us; they can keep us down and make us ineffective in our walk with God; they can make us vulnerable to Satan. But James 1:2-3 informs us that we can redefine the bad things that happen to us. “*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*” James does not tell us to glory in our tragedies and trials. The key is to see the bad things as opportunities for our faith to grow and expand. We are to use those opportunities to learn patience and endurance, qualities that we desperately need to be overcomers and, in the end, victorious.

“*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*” (1 John 5:4) “*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*” (Revelation 3:21) Being a Christian is all about turning tragedy into triumph. May that be our resolve now and as long as we shall live. The Elders

Thoughts from Psalm 2

Folly in high places

“*Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”*” Psalm 2:1-3

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” I’m not sure who first said those words but I do know that when humans are handed the reigns of authority, particularly authority to govern and punish a large group of people, things do seem to tend in the direction of corruption rather than righteousness. In that respect things have changed little from the time of the psalmist to our day and age.

It would do us all well to keep in mind that setting oneself against the stated will of God is the very height of corruption. Thus, when the rulers and lawmakers of our day, many of whom delight in speaking of their “faith” and how God and His will shapes their decisions, institute laws and dictates that are contradictory or opposed to the revealed will of God they are in essence saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

As an example of what I am speaking of consider the laws concerning the marriage of homosexuals. By the time my children graduate high school, I would not be in the least surprised were the “lawful marriage” of those who have chosen the path of homosexuality accepted in most, if not all, states. Many praise lawmakers who fight for these marriages as forward thinking, open-minded, and even godly. Sadly, godly is one thing they are certainly not for God’s will in the matter is quite clear (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Our duty to those who rule over us is clear from Scripture (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15). It is God’s will that His children be in subjection to governing authorities for the principle of government was created and established by God Himself (John 19:10-11). However, when any human ruler, whether it be a single person or a body of people, steps

across the line and begins to rage against the revealed will of God, you and I have a duty in that instance as well. It is a duty best explained by Peter in Acts 5:29. “*We must obey God rather than men.*”

A Warning To The Wise

“*Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all those who take refuge in him.*” Psalm 2:10-12

When you think of the Christ, what comes to mind? Most followers of Christ think of His love and compassion, His sinless life and example, His great sacrifice for the sins of the world. Why *wouldn't* Christians bring these things to mind upon hearing the wonderful name of the Savior? These characteristics provided the foundation for His actions and for our hope. How appropriately the Baptizer spoke of Him in John 1:29 when he said, “*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!*”

“The Lamb of God.” What a tremendous image as one considers the types and figures of the Passover lamb meeting their fullest meaning in the Person of the Christ! Of course, the “Lamb of God” is certainly not the only designation for the Christ to be found in Scripture. Another designation, found in Revelation 5:5, is “*the Lion of the tribe of Judah.*” That image depicts the Son as powerful and conquering. It is that image of the Son described for us in Psalm 2.

The Jesus of great might and strength, a powerful conqueror of all those who oppose Him, is frankly a Jesus the vast majority of us are not as comfortable with. While we thrill to speak of His love and compassion, we often find ourselves less inclined to speak of His justice and wrath. Generally speaking this Jesus is not received nearly so well by the masses and can cost a teacher a willing crowd in short order should *this* Jesus become too demanding and unyielding. “*The Lion of the tribe of Judah*” isn’t as soft on the ears as is “*the Lamb of God.*” He *is* the same Person, however. To accept one is necessarily to accept the other. To reject one is necessarily to reject the other.

The only escape *from* the conquering and vengeful Son is refuge *in* Him. For those who reject Him, vengeance (2 Thessalonians 1:5-9). For those who accept Him, eternal life (Matthew 11:28-30). So, which Son do *you* intend to meet? AL

Sermons: (AM) “That they know...God” (1) (PM) “Show me a sign...”

Reading: (Am) Luke 23:1-21

(PM) Luke 23:22-43