

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 2

January 13, 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) showed slight improvement at the time of this writing. However, she is still in critical condition in the Morehead Hospital. **Reese Worley** (Ron and Sharon's granddaughter) is suffering from a neurological disorder. **Star Jamerson** is recovering from a heart transplant. **Sharon Tirey** has been battling the flu.

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

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Sun: Ps 124, Jb 9-10, Is 29:1-30:17, 1 Jn 2:18-3:3	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Mon: Ps 125, Jb 11, Is 30:18-32:20, 1 Jn 3:4-24	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue: Ps 126, Jb 12, Is 33-34, 1 Jn 4	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed: Ps 127, Jb 13, Is 35, 1 Jn 5	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	Wednesday
Thu: Ps 128, Jb 14, Is 36-37, 2 Jn		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri: Ps 129, Jb 15, Is 38, 3 Jn	EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
Sat: Ps 130 Jb 16-17, Is 39, Jude	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
		Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
		Matt Thompson	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			(Finished for the time being)

There's A Lesson Here

When one states that he is resolved, he is affirming that he has set a goal and is determined to reach that goal. In last week's article, two predominant states of mind, happiness and heartache, associated with the end of year holiday season were discussed. As noted in that article, these two states of mind can become the basis upon which one can set fresh goals and determine that the new year will be a year of positive change. Let's focus upon happiness.

No doubt we experienced great happiness as we merrily decorated our homes, exchanged gifts, and strengthened family relationships. As the season winds down, the decorations are stored away for another year, and distant family members depart for home. We might find ourselves experiencing a period of let-down. But it doesn't have to be that way. We can resolve to maximize happiness each and every day beginning right now.

So many times we completely lose sight of the fact that God intended for His creation to be a happy place. Adam and Eve initially lived in a paradise that must have been lovely beyond compare. God, upon examining His creation when it was completed, declared that it was very good. (Genesis 1:31) While it is true that with sin much unhappiness entered the world, we can still resolve to seek out the good things of God that will help us to maximize happiness.

In Psalm 4, David contrasts putting one's trust in man versus relying on God. In verses 6 and 7 he says, "*There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!' You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.*"

Psalm 16 expresses David's conviction that God will not abandon him. He finds great joy and gladness in his reliance upon God. "*Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" (verses 9-11)

Reminders!

The college class begins today.
The information meeting is today at 5.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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And, let us not forget Psalm 1. “**Blessed (happy) is the man** who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**”

There is an almost inexhaustible number of ways to maximize happiness in our service to God and one another. God wants us to be happy and full of joy as we serve Him in our daily lives. The scriptures will tell us what pleases Him, and if He is pleased with us then we have no choice but to be happy. *O happy day, O happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away.* Let us resolve to awaken each day with this song on our lips and with our minds firmly set, resolved to extract the maximum amount of happiness that God has packed into each day. The Elders

Thoughts From Psalm 1:1-3 Where do you belong?

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.”

Psalm 1:1-2

Everyone wants to feel as though they are accepted somewhere. One’s life would be sad indeed if they never felt as though they were part of anything, as though they never belonged. Yet the first verse of the first psalm warns us that there is a group we would do very well not to become too comfortable with—habitual sinners.

Sadly, wicked people are everywhere. We go to school with them, work with them, shop with them, fill our gas tanks with them, eat at restaurants with them, watch them on television, and hear them on the radio. Of course, it has been this way almost from the beginning. God is not going to take His people out of the world in which they live (John 17:15). Rather, He asks His people to work hard at leading wickedness to righteousness, leading lost souls to the One who can make them saved souls (Matthew 28:18-20). Yet it is not only righteousness attempting to influence wickedness. The roles have often been reversed to the detriment of those who were once faithful.

Someone said that the progression of Psalm 1:1 is that of thinking, behaving, and belonging. Let me encourage you never to take the first step on to the road leading away from God and toward Satan. Let me encourage you never to seek acceptance, to seek belonging, from those whose actions alienate them from God. Simply put, the child of God *does not* belong with the wicked.

Instead, he finds his focus and His delight in the law of God. Not only that, he finds that his mind is too filled with meditations of heaven to allow entry to base, worthless thoughts that can prevent his ultimate goal.

So, where do you belong? Jesus answers, “*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle*

and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30). What a wonderful answer it is!

Planted and fruitful

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he prospers.”

Psalm 1:3

My grandfather had several small ponds on his farm. I recall one in particular that never went dry in all of the years he owned that property. That pond weathered several droughts without any difficulty. I remember more than once looking out over those dusty fields, my grandfather praying desperately for rain, and our eyes constantly being drawn to that small circle of bright green in the back left corner of his field. It was like an oasis in the desert. While everything else withered away, the plants and trees on the banks of that small pond flourished because their water source, their source of *life*, never went dry.

A Christian can enjoy a life every bit as abundant and vigorous, yet they too must remain at the side of their life source. We face days when the heat of trials and difficulties hammer down upon us. We face days when we begin to wilt under strain and stress much like a plant under harsh conditions. I think of Paul’s words from 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. “*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.*”

Paul never despaired because he was never forsaken. His feet, mind, and soul were planted firmly at the side of his Savior. Because of that he was able to receive exactly what he needed to survive, even *thrive*, under whatever condition he happened to be facing.

Nothing is different for the faithful child of God today. We do not find our source or life or guidance in the opinions of men. Neither are we forced to rely upon our own devices as we traverse a treacherous and often perilous spiritual landscape. Rather, the One who died for us is also blessing us (Ephesians 1:3). Those who cling to Him and find their delight in His Word (Psalm 1:2) find themselves planted on the banks of a stream overflowing with pure, refreshing water. They find that regardless of the situation, they possess the precise spiritual fruit they need to overcome. It’s all due to their faithfulness to He who is always faithful. So, where are you planted? AL

Sermons: (AM) Lip-Service

(PM) What manner of spirit are you of?

Reading: (Am) Luke 22:24-46

(PM) Luke 22:47-71