

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 5

February 3, 2013

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:

Vernon Johnson, a friend of the Morelan's, is in Central Baptist hospital after hip replacement surgery. The situation with **Reese Worley** (Ron and Sharon's granddaughter) is in a holding pattern as various doctors consider her scans.

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

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Ps 145, Jb 34-35, Is 58, Rev 16
Mon: Ps 146, Jb 36:1-21, Is 59, Rev 17
Tue: Ps 147, Jb 36:22-37:24, Is 60, Rev 18
Wed: Ps 148, Jb 38, Is 61-61, Rev 19
Thu: Ps 149, Jb 39-40:5, Is 63-64, Rev 20
Fri: Ps 150, Jb 40:6-42:6, Is 65, Rev 21-22:5
Sat: Ps 90, Jb 42:7-17, Is 66, Rev 22:6-21

LEADERSHIP

<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

SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study: 9:45 AM
 Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Study: 7:30 PM
1st Fri. of Month
 Singing: 7:30 PM
3rd Fri. of Month
 Bible Study: 7:00 PM
 (Finished for the time being)

There's A Lesson Here

Loyalty and fidelity do not seem to be much admired qualities these days, unless it is loyalty to oneself. Loyalty to oneself, however, is really not loyalty at all, but rather pure selfishness. Loyalty is faithfulness to one's commitments and obligations, and, while it is recognized that one does have commitments and obligations to oneself, loyalty has to do with one's commitments and obligations to something outside of oneself. Fealty, devotion, constancy, and loyalty all imply a sense of duty or of devoted attachment to something or someone.

Have you followed the Bible reading plan for the year? If so you will have read the entire Bible (and some of it twice) after this week's reading!

Disloyalty to one's country, i.e. treason, used to be a despicable crime, but now has apparently passed into the vocabulary archives. Disloyalty to one's spouse, i.e. adultery, used to be a matter of extreme dishonor, but now hardly raises an eyebrow. The "me first" attitude which underlies much of the behavior that now occurs leaves virtually no motivation to remain loyal to anyone or anything outside of oneself. How tragic! But the disloyalty that is most tragic of all is disloyalty to God, the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe.

Consider the example of King Saul. 1 Chronicles 10 records the death of Saul following a disastrous battle with the Philistines. Some years before this battle, Saul had disobeyed God by not utterly destroying the Amalekites. Because of this disobedience God said He would remove the kingdom from Saul and his family and give it to another. Now, after several years of a very troubled life, knowing that the battle was going against him and being wounded with an arrow, Saul fell on his own sword and killed himself. When the Philistines found his body, they took his armor and his head and displayed them in the temple of Dagon and their other gods. *"Therefore the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse."* (1 Chronicles 10:14b)

Why did God treat King Saul that way? Maybe a better question to ask is why should God have remained loyal to Saul, when Saul had repeatedly proved himself to be disloyal to God? We must understand that disobedience to God is, in fact, disloyalty to Him. *"So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the Lord."* (1 Chronicles 10:13-14a)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257 – www.uheightschurch.com

We would never be guilty of treason, would we? We find adultery to be abhorrent, don't we? Then do we take a casual attitude towards breaking faith with Almighty God while at the very same time taking for granted His loyalty to us? What does God see when He looks at our commitment to Him? Does He see an impenetrable wall, well repaired, shored up along its length? Or does He see a wall in disrepair, pockmarked with cracks and holes, breeched at regular intervals along its length?

Let us remember that only the fiercely loyal Christian will receive the eternal reward. *"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."* (Revelation 2:10b) The Elders

Thoughts from Psalms 7 and 8 Playing With Fire

"If a man does not repent, God will whet His sword; He has bent and readied His bow"
Psalm 7:12

There is a preacher I know who is now in his eightieth year. He is one of the godliest men I have ever known and I have as much respect for him as any man. I was surprised to hear that this veteran soldier of Christ approached one of his brethren, a friend of his for several decades, to essentially "come clean" over an incident that had taken place nearly *fifty years* prior. As it turned out this older preacher had wronged the other Christian in secret and had never allowed the light of day to shine upon his actions all those years ago. He finally came to the conclusion that he could never rest assured of his salvation until he repented of the action not just to God, but to the man he had wronged. Indeed, he did not believe that he really *had* repented unto God until he sought to make things right with his friend.

Does it seem strange to you that my friend would be worrying himself over something that had taken place fifty years prior? Does it seem odd that he would approach that man and apologize to him over something that man could barely even remember? I believe that my friend made the right choice. There is no statute of limitations on our sins. The mere passing of time does not lessen the significance or a sin nor does it erase the stain it leaves on our soul. When a person becomes a Christian by submitting to Christ in humble faith and contacting His precious blood in the waters of baptism (Romans 6), the sins of the past are washed clean (Acts 22:16). Part of that process is repenting of those past sins (Luke 13:3, 5).

However, repentance remains incredibly important in the life of the Christian. The sad truth is that though the faithful Christian sins far less, he still sins. To continue to be washed clean by the blood of Christ he must be willing to continue to repent of his sins (1 John 1:8-9; Acts 8:22).

Let us not play with the fire of sin. When we see it in our lives let us join voice with David. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions." (Psalm 51:1)

"O Lord, our Lord"

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Psalm 8:1, 9

Rarely have I been so overcome with wonder and emotion that I did not know how to express it in some way, even if the manner and product of expression ultimately fell short of the intensity of the feeling. Israel's sweet psalmist (2 Samuel 23:1) possessed the soul of a poet and a seemingly endless collection of the most moving expressions of adoration, praise, devotion, and wonderment. Yet even he could only utter a faint "O Lord, our Lord" as his mind was transported to realms beyond his ability to justify with words. What depth of feeling must have poured from his pen in the four words, "O Lord, our Lord"!

It is very telling that Jehovah Himself was the object of David's consideration in this psalm. This righteous man who never seemed to be at a loss for words knew not what to say when meditating upon the glory of the God whose own heart he possessed. It is the *fact* of David's meditation upon God that I wish to consider with you at this time.

How often do you allow yourself to mentally set aside all the activities of the day, to emotionally check out from the daily grind, to spend time in serious thought about all that God is and all that He does? I promise that you will be better for it when you do. These days it's rare to hear someone speaking of God in the manner David does in the psalms, isn't it? I have to assume that this is because the vast majority of people simply do not know God the way that David knew Him. David regularly meditated upon the Creator of the heavens, moon, and stars (Psalms 8:3). David often considered the exalted station God has bestowed through His mercy and grace upon man (Psalm 8:4-9). David's constant awareness that creation proves a Creator lit within him a fire to seek out and cling to this Creator's revelations as a drowning man clings to driftwood (Psalm 119).

Is there any wonder that the only way to express his depth of feeling was simply to say the name of the One whom he adored? After all, His very name is majestic in all the earth. How much more His Person? We would do well to spend more time considering the things that filled David's thoughts. AL

Sermons: (AM) "That they know...God" (3) (PM) "The stability of your times"

Reading: (AM) Luke 24:36-53

(PM) John 1:1-25