

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 8

February 24, 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 continues to rehab in Cardinal Hill. Let's pray for **Reese Worley** and her family as they consider which steps to take next. **Duane Clinton** lost his father and grandmother in a very short period of time. Let's show our support and also pray for he and his family. **Ethan Daniels** had tubes put in his ears this past Thursday. The procedure went well so let us pray that this will effectively end his chronic problem with ear infections.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, 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>
Mon	Genesis 28-29, Mark 11	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Tue	Genesis 30-31, Mark 12, Psalm 11	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Genesis 32-34, Mark 13, Psalm 145	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Genesis 35-37, Mark 14, Psalm 12	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Fri	Genesis 38-40, Mark 15		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
		Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
				Bible Study: 7:00 PM
				(Finished for the time being)

There's A Lesson Here

Most relationships among people take the form of those in authority and those who are subordinate. In the work environment, for example, there are supervisors, managers, bosses, and executives who make the decisions and there are the regular employees who carry out the work assigned to them. In school, principals, teachers, counselors and others are in authority over the students. Within the family, parents, grandparents and perhaps other adults provide the structure and discipline for the children. In church the membership is under the authority of the elders, and all of the members, including the elders, are under the authority of Jesus, the King. Choose any area of life, and any role within that area, and it can be defined in terms of who is in authority and who is subordinate.

Relationship problems among people generally result when those in authority abuse their position, when those under authority rebel, or when some of each is taking place. Abuse of power is pervasive in our society. Politicians ignore the public trust; parents and other adults sometimes do unspeakable things to children; supervisors make the work environment miserable for the employees; and charismatic con artists bilk fortunes from their unsuspecting victims. But, as prevalent as abuse of authority is, it doesn't come up to the level of rebellion. People do not like to be told what to do, how to behave, what to think and say. If it is not advantageous for people to rebel overtly, they will do so covertly through sabotage, passive-aggression, procrastination, undermining behavior, and other very effective ways. Many times, such covert rebellion is the subordinate's only way to "get back" at the one who is perceived as being abusive to them. In many instances, perhaps most, rebellion against authority is seen as a positive thing, with folks going to great lengths to justify it.

But what about spiritual rebellion? Is it ever justified? It might be, from a worldly perspective if God, not some human being who proclaims himself to be speaking for God, but God himself, had a habit of abusing his power and authority. However, that has never happened. In fact, it cannot happen because it would be against the very nature of God. Titus 1:2 says that God cannot lie. God cannot do anything that is outside of his very nature and essence. Therefore, He only and always relates to us out of his concern

Psalm 11:4

"The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man."

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for our best interests. If there is a problem with our relationship with God, then the problem is ours, and one can rest assured that rebellion is at work.

Beginning right now, as you are reading this article, whenever the commands and precepts, the statutes and ordinances, the warnings and prohibitions, and the examples and principles provided by God to direct our steps become onerous, consider Romans 2:4. *“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”* (ESV) *“Or are you [so blind as to] trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repent (to change your mind and inner man to accept God’s will)?”* (Amplified New Testament) Surely God wants us to get to the point where rebellion against Him is virtually eliminated from our lives. The Elders

Reflecting On The Psalms Fight or Flight?

“In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, ‘Flee like a bird to your mountain, for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark the upright in heart; if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?’”

Psalm 11:1-3

The situation described in the above verses is frightening, isn’t it? David’s friends and advisor’s stand next to him as they survey the landscape. Things look bleak indeed. If, as many believe, this psalm was written during the time of Saul’s reign when his hatred and jealousy toward David was reaching epic levels then it is very easy to see just how dark things appeared to those who had hitched their wagon to David.

They tell him that it’s time to abandon ship. They tell him to take a lesson from the birds. Birds certainly don’t hang around when troubles approaches, but spread their wings and fly to a place of safety. They tell David to look around him and see the wicked men that are aligning themselves against him. It is as though they already have the bow drawn fully and are cunningly hidden in the dark ready to fire upon him from he knows not where. They would also have David know that he has no reason to expect help to come from within Saul’s government. After all, the foundations of justice have been destroyed through Saul’s poor leadership and single-minded focus on murdering David. Were folks advising David today they might say, “David, your enemies are everywhere and they have their guns loaded with fingers on the trigger. The powers that be, including law enforcement, have grown corrupt and the most powerful man in the nation hates you and wants you dead. The time has come to pack your bags and get out of dodge. Abandon hope for it has certainly abandoned you.”

Yet David began to the psalm by asking his friends (and perhaps his own heart?) how they could say that he needs to flee? How could they tell him to run away? One might say that the answer seems obvious, but it is to the person who takes his refuge in God. Some problems cannot be bypassed but must be traveled through. David knew that God had plans

for him in Israel so he wasn’t leaving. However, there was no way he was getting through this situation without God. So David did what David always seemed to do: he put all of his trust and faith in the One who was infinitely more powerful than Saul and everyone else. He trusted God to be his refuge. May you and I possess such commitment and faith!

An All-Seeing Eye

“The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence...For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.”

Psalm 11:4-5, 7

“The Lord is in his holy temple.” How that thought must have comforted David! Reflecting upon that great truth took a situation that seemed impossible to overcome and reminded David that Saul was not ultimately in charge, God was! Saul could rampage and threaten, he could set the entire nation on David, yet God had plans for David that no man could nullify. Saul was not fighting against David, he was fighting against God.

Every step that both David and Saul made was carefully observed and weighed by God. Every prayer and demonstration of faith from David was noted and considered. Every time Saul cursed David or committed violence in a murderous rage, God was watching. God loved David because of David’s faith. He demonstrated a heart that God approved of, saying that it was even a heart similar to His own (1 Samuel 13:13-14). For that reason God protected him. Yet Saul became as wicked as David was righteous. His jealous, ungodly heart even moved him to commit an atrocious crime by having the priests of the city of Nob along with their families executed (1 Samuel 22:6-23).

David stated in verse 5 of our psalm that God tests the children of men. Viewing it through that prism it is easy to see that while David passed this test of faith with flying colors, Saul failed it just as thoroughly. After such a promising beginning Saul transformed into the very thing David reminds us that God hates—a wicked person who falls in love with violence. Sadly, that description pretty well sums up the final years of Saul’s life.

David concludes this wonderful psalm with a powerful statement of encouragement. I have no doubt that he was reminding himself of God’s great love for righteousness and all His wonderful promises to the faithful. As bad as things appeared to be David was buoyed with the knowledge that his trusting faith would result in seeing the lovely face of God. The same promise stands for you and I. AL

Sermons: (AM) Are there saved in all churches? (PM) Security

Reading: (AM) John 4:11-31

(PM) John 4:32-51