

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 10

March 10, 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:

Ed Sissel (Brianna's grandfather) was scheduled to have his kidney removed the day of this bulletin. Expect an update this morning. Let's pray for **Reese Worley** and her family as they prepare for her surgery in Arizona.

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, Vernon Johnson

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon	Exodus 1-3; Galatians 5	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Tue	Exodus 4-6, Galatians 6	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Exodus 7-9, Ephesians 1, Psalm 105	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Exodus 10-12, Ephesians 2	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Fri	Exodus 13-15, Ephesians 3, Psalm 114	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		Adam Litmer	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
			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

Time is one of the great regulators of our lives. We divide time into a myriad of different units.

"The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." Psalm 119:72

Eons, centuries, decades, years, months, days, hours, seconds, milliseconds; from large chunks of time down to extremely minute units, time rules our lives. Time and how it rules our lives did not occur by accident. *"And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day."* (Genesis 1:14-19) And so, time is always on our minds regulating, scheduling, speeding us up, slowing us down, giving us a sense of urgency, or aiding us to relax with a sense of satisfaction. We might think in terms of time is short; time is running out, time is speeding up, never enough time, or too much time. Language is full of idioms using time: the appointed time, behind the times, bide one's time, from time to time, borrowed time, pressed for time, time is money, the time is ripe, and one's time is up are just a few.

We have the practice, twice a year, of changing our clocks. In the spring of the year we "spring" forward, and in the fall we "fall" back. These two adjustments in time can be thought of as symbolizing how young people and older folks perceive time. Young people are eager to grow up. Their play often mimics adult behaviors; they cannot wait to graduate from high school; they are in a rush to be adults thus freeing themselves from the restraints of childhood. They want to "spring forward" in time. Older folks, on the other hand, would

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

like to slow time down. The days, months, and even years fly by much too rapidly. They have a sense of time running out and things are likely to be left undone. Older people would like to “fall back” in time.

But God has directed us to develop a much more useful perception of time. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, in Ephesians 5:15-16, that our attitude should be that of redeeming time. Many Bible translations, other than the King James Version, explain what is meant by redeeming time. For example, the English Standard Version reads, “*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*” The Amplified New Testament is also helpful in aiding our understanding of what it means to redeem time. “*Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.*” God’s required attitude towards time is repeated in Colossians 4:5 with regard to how Christians are to deal with those outside of the church. “*Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians), making the very most of the time and seizing (buying up) the opportunity.*” (Amplified)

How do you view time? Wouldn’t we all be better off simply seeing time as a gift from God conveying ample opportunities to serve Him in this life? Would we not be more prudent and wiser to use every opportunity to make the best use of the time God has given us? The Elders.

A Walk Through The Psalms

The value of the Lord’s words

“The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”

Psalm 12:6

Many years ago my family and I travelled to Calgary, Canada where Dad met with a congregation to discuss a possible move. The trip became a sort of working vacation for us. One day we went to the zoo. Once you park you have to walk over a bridge to reach the entrance. Looking down from the bridge at the water beneath offered a truly amazing site. The water, flowing right out of the Rocky Mountains, was so pure and clean that we could see the riverbed itself. As

someone who has been around the Ohio River all of his life you can imagine my amazement. It looked as though there couldn’t be more than a foot of water when in reality it was more than ten feet deep. Even then we could see the bottom as clearly as if the surface of the water was a window to everything beneath. To this day when I think of purity I tend to think of the Bow River in Calgary, Canada.

David said that the words of the Lord are as pure as silver refined in a furnace seven times. This immediately makes me think of the value of God’s Word. If I had walked down to the riverbank with a bowl, filled it with water from the river, and attempted to sell it no one would buy. As clean as it was there wasn’t any real value in it. But suppose I filled my bowl with the purest silver refined seven times to where it gleamed brilliantly? It would not be difficult for me to sell the contents of that bowl for a tremendous price because its contents would be so valuable. Of even greater value than that purified silver are the words of God. After speaking of the law, testimony, precepts, commandments, and rules of the Lord, David says, “*More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.*” (Psalm 19:10) Later we read, “*The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*” (Psalm 119:72). Do you find God’s Word to be this valuable?

Psalm 12:6 also informs of us of the certainty of God’s Word. Considering the symbolic use of numbers in Hebrew writing we recognize the number seven to be the number of completeness and perfection. David said the words of the Lord are like silver refined seven times. They are perfect, complete, and lacking nothing. There is nothing that man needs to add to God’s Word to make it worthwhile or valuable. Every promise of His will be fulfilled exactly as He has said *because* He has said.

The words of God will lead us directly to heaven if they are followed correctly. With salvation and a home with Him in eternity as their fruit, what could be more valuable than the words of the Lord?

Sermons: (AM) God is Spirit

(PM) Citizens of two kingdoms

Reading: (AM) John 6:1-24

(PM) John 6:25-52