

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 12

March 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:

Ed Sissel (Brianna's grandfather) is recovering at home after battling a bout pneumonia following his surgery. **Lindsay Morgan's** tests have been coming back inconclusive. Let us pray that she is able to overcome her recent health concerns. **Reese Worley**, along with her family, will be traveling to Arizona for her surgery in April.

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 32-34, Philippians 3	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Tue	Exodus 35-37, Philippians 4, Psalm 26	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Exodus 38-40, Hebrews 1	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Leviticus 1-3, Hebrews 2, Psalm 27	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Fri	Leviticus 4-7, Hebrews 3		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>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

There's A Lesson Here

Can you imagine not being recognized by your parents? Would there be anything more

"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.""
1 Peter 1:15-16

emotionally hurtful, even devastating, than being told by your father and mother who reared you, nurtured you, and loved you to get out of their house because they do not know who you are? Despite all of your attempts to elicit even a spark of recognition, all that is accomplished is to aggravate them to ever increasing hostile denials that they know you to be their child. And so you leave, terribly unsettled in mind as to how this could happen.

There is, in fact, a situation that is even more terrible than not being recognized by your physical parents, and that is not being recognized by God, the Father. Christians are the children of God, the Father. Although I can claim God to be my Father, that does not make it so. God is my Father only if He recognizes me to be His child. 2 Timothy 2:19 states, *Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his..."* That assurance is most comforting to a faithful Christian, but promises only eternal suffering to an unfaithful Christian or one who has never become a Christian. *"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (Matthew 7:22-23)*

How does God distinguish between those that are His and those who are not? If He knows those who belong to Him, *how* does He know? Romans 12:2 states, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be*

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transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” 1 John 2:15 says, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* Titus 2:12 states: *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”*. 1 Peter 1:15-16 instructs us: *“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

During the prophet Malachi’s time, God’s people, generally speaking, had become exceedingly corrupt. God brought multiple charges against them through Malachi. However, there were some who had remained faithful and there were others, no doubt, who repented. Chapter 3 of Malachi ends with a statement of fact with regard to those who faithfully serve God. *“Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ‘They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”* (Malachi 3:16-18)

God knows those who are His. He distinguishes between the righteous and the wicked. He knows those who are holy and those who are defiled. God claims those who fear Him and esteem His name as belonging to Him. *“They shall be mine,”* He says.

Does God know you? Does He claim you as His own? The Elders

The Embarrassed Church

By Robert Turner

A young lady “came forward” and told the preacher that she had “embarrassed the church, and wished to make it right.” He dutifully reported this to the congregation, a prayer was offered on her behalf, and everyone

seemed to be happy. Others might say that the young woman had “brought reproach upon the church,” or “had not been faithful to the church.” In one sense “the church” or “called out” saints represent the *cause* of Christ, and misconduct on the part of professed saints makes it more difficult to promote that cause. But is that our concern and emphasis?

A subtle change in emphasis may take place. *Our* personal or corporate reputation may be at stake. Are we more interested in preserving *our* image than in correcting sins against Christ? Why do we not say, *“I have sinned against heaven...”* (Luke 15:21).

David said, *“I have sinned against Jehovah”* (2 Samuel 12:13), and Nathan said he had *“given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme”* (v. 14. See also Romans 2:24). *God* has been reproached, not man. Or, when Simon had sinned (Acts 8:18-24) Peter seemed much more concerned with Simon’s lost condition than with the reputation of the saints. Is this our concern? Have you noticed a difference in treatment of the little-known sinner, and one from a prominent family? In well known but non-sensational sin, and one that made headlines, *especially* if the church is mentioned? In such cases each member must examine his conscience, making a sincere effort to put the cause of Christ and salvation of a lost soul before personal or corporate pride.

True saints are converted to Jesus Christ. They are baptized into Jesus Christ and strive to be faithful to Him. If they ignore the command to assemble they ignore Christ’s command (1 Corinthians 11:23-f). Fornicators and adulterers break their marriage vow to God (James 4:4, 1 Corinthians 6:15-f). Certainly we have failed our brethren with whom we have covenanted and who depend upon us to do our part, but it is a *sinned against Christ* whom we must meet in final judgment, not an embarrassed church.

Sermons: (AM) God is love

(PM) Hold to Christ’s gospel!

Reading: (AM) John 7:25-52

(PM) John 8:1-30