

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 15

April 7, 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:

**Linda Parsons** was scheduled to return home Thursday. **Reese Worley** was doing quite well at the time of this writing. **Darlene Brown** has returned home and continues to recover.

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Lindsay Morgan

**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, Ed Sissel

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
<b>Mon</b>	Leviticus 24-25, Hebrews 9, Psalm 81	<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	<b><u>DEACONS</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday</u></b>
<b>Teu</b>	Leviticus 26-27, Hebrews 10, Psalm 112	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Wed</b>	Numbers 1-2, Hebrews 11, Psalm 64	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Thu</b>	Numbers 3-5, Hebrews 12	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>
<b>Fri</b>	Numbers 6-7, Hebrews 13		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		<b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b>	Bill Morelan	<b><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></b>
		Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<b><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></b>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

### **There's A Lesson Here**

James 4:8 says, *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”* As was stated in last week’s bulletin article, if one would draw near to God one must

know where to look for Him. Not only can God be found in His creation, He can also be found in the scriptures. While we can draw near to God by being receptive to what creation informs us about Him, we can draw nearer by means of the knowledge God reveals about Himself in His word. It is as if creation is merely a preface or introduction to the infinitely more detailed content contained within the bible.

If one would know God, if one would really and truly draw near to God, the bible is where He can be found. In order to really draw near to God one must get into His word wherein He reveals Himself. In the bible God tells us who He is, who we are, and where we stand in relation to Him. Not only does God describe Himself in His book, He also tells us what He has done and why He did it. In addition He tells us what He will do in the future. He doesn’t stop there; He informs us what He likes and what He does not like. He makes clear what pleases Him and what displeases Him. He shares His promises, gives warnings, and provides ample evidence that His promises can be relied upon without fail. In the remainder of this article we can only begin to mine the depths of the scriptures to extract the vast treasures contained therein. Even though space is limited, we can establish the profound truth that if we will draw near to God by going to the scriptures God will draw near to us.

Let’s draw near to God through the following scriptures:

**God is eternal and infinite.** *“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.”* (Ps 102:25-27)

**God is sovereign.** *“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”* (Isaiah 46:9-11)

Have you begun to make your plans to attend each night of our gospel meeting? It will be April 14-19. Brother Charles “Skip” Sebree will be doing the preaching.

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**God has done great and wonderful things.** *“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”* (Col. 2:11-16)

**God’s power works to our best interests.** *“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:29-31)

The bible is all about God. It contains God’s revelation about Himself. Just think about that fact: God, the Creator, has not left us, the creation, in the dark about Him, but has fully enlightened us so that we might know Him. There is no better way to draw near to God than to make His word a vital part of our lives. The Elders

### “The Meekness Of Wisdom”

*“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”* James 3:13

God does not view wisdom the way man tends to view it. He never has. We worship just across the street from some of the “wisest” people around, at least as the world would define it. There are people on the neighboring campus able to speak of astrophysics as if they were little more than a simple 1+1 equation. There are those on the neighboring campus who can incorporate Shakespearean language in all its beauty into their daily speech as if they and the bard had written his masterpieces together. There are those on the neighboring campus who are creating new business models that will eventually net them a small fortune. There are those on the neighboring campus doing things with computers the mere telling of which causes my head to spin. Yes, much “wisdom” exists just across the road.

Or does it? In Proverbs 1:7 we read, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* How much “fear of the Lord,” genuine respect and adoration for God, exists on the neighboring campus? Does the scientist, daily breaking new ground in his field, work nearly so hard on the state of his soul? Does the Shakespearean scholar spend nearly the same amount of time with the greatest Book of them all? Clearly a person can know a great many things and yet abandon the most important knowledge of all. Where is the wisdom in that?

However, James was writing to and about Christians so it is to Christians our focus must turn. Specifically we shall focus upon true wisdom and its attributes as defined by James. While he seems to especially have in mind those who feel they are qualified to teach others (3:1) there is little doubt that James extends to include all Christians in what followed (3:2-12). I believe such continues to be the case. However, those who would seek to be public teachers should take special note of verse 13.

First, wisdom is meek. Be careful to note that James did not say that wisdom *should* be meek, but that meekness is a necessary attribute, an inherent quality, of genuine wisdom. Though frowned upon from ancient times unto today, meekness is to be a defining quality of every Christian. In this context, meekness would refer to wisdom that is void of any aspirations for acclaim, recognition, arrogance, or pride. When one considers that knowledge comes from God and what He has revealed in His Word, that diligent study of Scripture reveals on a daily basis how much more there is to learn, and that their own understandings continue to change as they continue to become more familiar with God’s Word, humility should be ever increasing within them. The reason this would not be true is explained by James in 3:14-16. May our God grant us the wisdom to avoid such a deadly group!

Second, note that wisdom is demonstrated in deeds. There is a tendency among us to believe that genuine wisdom is demonstrated in one’s touching eloquence and masterful argumentation. The inspired writer says that genuine wisdom is something demonstrated in good deeds. In other words, let us not *tell* people that we are wise and understanding, let us *show* them by doing the good works we were created in Christ Jesus to do (Ephesians 2:10). To say that the wise person *should* do good works is to misunderstand biblical teaching. Genuine wisdom and good works are not mutually exclusive. If a person possesses the wisdom James is describing they also live a life of good and godly deeds for the two cannot be separated. If the deeds are not there, neither is the wisdom.

I find James 3:13 to be both challenging and humbling. It is challenging because we live in a society that could not disagree more with the inspired writer’s description of genuine wisdom. Without constant care we can be influenced to disagree with it as well, at least in practice. It is humbling because I must admit that I have failed on more than one occasion to live up to the lofty expectations of this verse. James went on to say *“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”* Let us pursue such heavenly wisdom! AL

**Sermons:** (AM) John Thompson preaching (PM) Blake Ratliff preaching

**Reading:** (AM) John 9:22-41 (PM) John 10:1-19

