

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: New: Sandy Driver (Bill’s sister) will be entering a cancer treatment center in Ohio.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd

Others: Mamie Dart, Casey Sparrow, Hope Vinogradov, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valarie and Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Tony Tyree, Wilma Lawson, Janett Brundige’s mother and stepfather, Diane Whitehead

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	Numbers 26-29, Luke 2	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	Numbers 30-33, Luke 3, Psalm 35	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Numbers 34-36, Luke 4	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Deuteronomy 1-3, Luke 5, Psalm 36	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	Deuteronomy 4-5, Luke 6	Adam Litmer	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
			Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Phoebe: A Woman Of Whom So Much is Said in So Few Words

In the first century AD the active seaport for the city of Corinth was Cenchreae. A church of Christ was located in that village. Had you been a member of that local congregation you would have known and truly loved Phoebe. She was an asset to the Lord’s church in so many ways. In just a few brief words Paul made known his enormous admiration for her. “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. (Romans 16:1-2)

“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exalt over me.”
Psalm 25:1-2

First of all Paul calls her “our sister.” He acknowledges that he has a relationship with her, a family relationship. She and he share the very same spiritual Father. She and he are joint heirs with their savior, Jesus Christ. “For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him” (Romans 8:15-17). She was not just Paul’s sister in the Lord, but also the sister of those at Cenchreae, and Rome, and wherever Christians assembled and worked together. We must never undervalue being a part of God’s family.

Next Paul calls Phoebe a servant of the church at Cenchreae. Notice that she did not serve herself; she did not proclaim some political cause. She served the church. She served the saints who made up the church. Her spiritual brothers and sisters were the ones who concerned her and they were the ones whom she attended. But she also served the church in that her primary goal was furthering the cause of Christ. The church she served was the one Jesus built. It belonged to Him. When Jesus, while observing the Passover shortly before his death, laid aside his outer garments, took a towel and began to wash the feet of his disciples, he set a standard of service that is rarely achieved among the Lord’s people. Not so Phoebe. She would

have been honored to be called a servant of the church, content to simply continue to serve.

Finally, Paul praises her to those in Rome and recommends her as worthy of their confidence as well as his own. He urges the Christians in Rome to welcome her, not just with a handshake or with a “hello, how are you?”, but in a way worthy of the saints. In what way might that be? Should they not welcome her in the same way that Jesus would welcome her? Paul wants them to be helpful to her in whatever way she might have need of them. They are to serve her as she, herself, serves others. What a beautiful description of the church in action. It is no wonder that Paul held this Christian woman in such high regard. The Elders

“Teach us to pray”
By Greg Litmer

In Luke 11:1, we are told that the Lord Jesus was praying in a certain place and that when He ceased His prayer, one of His disciples said to Him, “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” In response to his request Jesus gave this model prayer, very similar to the one found in Matthew 6:9-13. This was not a prayer to be memorized and then recited over and over again. Rather, it was in response to a request. The simplicity and directness of this same prayer makes it a wonderful model for us. Let us notice what Jesus said in verses 2-4: “*When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.*”

There are several lessons we can learn about praying from our Lord’s example. First, we note that God is addressed as “Father.” He is not addressed as “The Lord God of Israel”, but as “Father”, an inclusive term. There is a universality of teaching here. He is also not addressed as Almighty, Creator, Ruler, or any other such appropriate designation; for “Father” is comprehensive enough to include them all. It is also true that “Father” brings to the forefront a loving and caring relationship. The prayer shows that God is to be given reverence, homage, and respect. Note the phrase, “*hallowed be your name.*” Our prayers must first recognize that relationship God has with all His children, and magnify and glorify His name.

When Jesus spoke this simple prayer it was absolutely appropriate to say, “*Your kingdom come*”, because the kingdom on earth during the Messianic age, the church, had not yet come. It was at hand but not there yet. The real idea was that of identifying their interests with the kingdom of God. It was God’s will that must be done and it is no different today. We must acknowledge our total submission to His will. The KJ shows Jesus saying, “*Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.*” The Lord not only taught this principle in the sample prayer, He demonstrated it in His life. Remember His words in

Gethsemane? Jesus said, “*If it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.*”

The sample prayer of Jesus also called for recognition of complete dependence upon God; and bringing this to mind in all of our prayers serves to keep that dependence ever before our minds. We must note, however, that asking each day for the bread we need carries with it the efforts on our part to earn our daily bread. We are to work for it, fulfilling our part. Think of it in this way. When we pray for the borders of the kingdom to be increased, we are pledging ourselves to do our part.

We all need forgiveness and Jesus said that we should recognize that in our prayers. At the same time we should also recognize the uselessness of asking for forgiveness if we ourselves are not willing to forgive. By thinking about this with every prayer we will never forget that a willingness on our part to forgive is as much a condition of forgiveness as is our willingness to repent and confess.

He sample prayer also recognizes the reality of temptation. We will all be tempted and it is right and proper to pray that the temptations be few and that we will be able to bear them. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*”

Have you *really* thought about the blessing of prayer? It is an avenue of communication with God. It is always open and does not cost us a thing. God is never too busy to listen. In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul wrote, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

“What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief’s to bear; what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer”

Sermons: The Parable of the mustard seed
Ephesians

Reading: (AM) Psalm 26
(PM) Psalm 27

The Blog: We will continue to consider practical lessons from the psalms.