

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 this week. **Duane Clinton** lost his aunt last week. Let’s keep he and his family in our prayers.

**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            | Deuteronomy 6-9, Luke 7              | ELDERS        | DEACONS          | Sunday                        |
| Tue            | Deuteronomy 10-14, Luke 8, Psalm 5   | Garry Banks   | Troy Antle       | Bible Study: 9:45 AM          |
| Wed            | Deuteronomy 15-18, Luke 9, Psalm 115 | David Collins | Richard Brundige | Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM    |
| Thu            | Deuteronomy 19-22, Luke 10, Psalm 6  | John Thompson | Matt Thompson    | Wednesday                     |
| Fri            | Deuteronomy 23-26, Luke 11           | 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 Messenger

Volume 6--Number 20

May 11, 2014

Giving and Receiving

Without a doubt people love to give. If that were not so, there would not be so many special days designated as opportunities to give gifts. Anniversaries, birth days, mother’s day, father’s day, secretary’s day, and so on, all reminding us of Paul’s statement to the Ephesian that Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 19:35) For the most part we give because we want to give. We give cheerfully because we want to give cheerfully; it pleases us to give cheerfully. And, we give generously because we want to give generously; we value the one receiving the gift and we fully intend to give a gift that reflects how much we value the recipient. Consequently we put much thought and planning into insuring that our gifts are just right for the intended recipient.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”  
Acts 19:35

For every gift given there is a recipient. If the recipient of the gift meets all of the giver’s expectations in giving, then the giver comes away with very positive feelings about the transaction and all of his forethought and planning are worthwhile. Frequently, however, the receiver does not value the gift in a way that matches the value placed upon it by the giver. Perhaps he or she briefly examines the gift, says a rather unemotional “thank you” and moves on to other things. Perhaps the recipient says something like, “just what I needed, another....” When the giver senses that the recipient does not value the gift as much as he or she does, disappointment sets in and the relationship may suffer.

The bible tells us that the greatest of all possible givers has given the greatest of all possible gifts for the greatest of all possible motives. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)* There can be no one greater than God. Elihu, the youngest of those who thought they knew the reasons for Job’s misery stated a truism about God: *Behold, in this you are not right. I will*

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

*answer you, for God is greater than man.*(Job 33:12). Psalm 99 is all about the majesty and glory and greatness of God. It begins: *The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.* (Psalm 99:1-2)

There can be no greater gift than the only begotten Son of God. Colossians 1:15-17 informs us of the value of Jesus. *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* This is the gift that God gave us. Would any of us dare say that God has not placed the highest of all possible values upon His gift?

This gift has proceeded from the greatest of all possible motives: *For God so loved the world.* “The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; it goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell.” God planned this gift before the world was even created. No human has ever put such forethought into a gift.

Little space is left to go into our response to this gift. Perhaps these verses will bring to mind others. *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 15:57) *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15) The Elders

### **Rebuke...Forgive**

Luke 17:3-4 contains interesting and important teaching from our Lord. “*Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you just forgive him.*”

Most of us likely know verse 4 much better than verse 3. Forgiveness is a wonderful thing and the endless willingness to forgive is a necessary Christian virtue. In another place Jesus reminds us that our own forgiveness is inseparably bound to our willingness to forgive other people (Matthew 6:14-15).

Besides maintaining a vital relationship to our own forgiveness, discussing forgiveness generally makes us feel good. While it is not always easy to forgive others when they sin against us, and while it sometimes requires a herculean effort, we know that when we have done it we have demonstrated genuine Christian love and have pleased our Lord.

Meditating upon forgiveness also serves the benefit of reminding us that we are in constant need of forgiveness ourselves. This inspires humility and sober mindedness. It causes us to remember that we are not perfect and transgress from time to time. This realization helps make us compassionate and merciful, two traits absolutely essential to our walk with Christ.

However, it will not do to make verses 3 and 4 *only* about forgiveness. Our Lord spoke first of rebuke and repentance. This is not as pleasant as forgiveness and as a result is often overlooked or simply ignored whenever verse 4 is discussed. However, our Lord’s instruction to forgive as often as it is needed is set in the framework of instruction on rebuking sin and the repentance that such rebuke should inspire. But let’s be honest about this: “If your brother sins, rebuke him” is not as easy on the ears as “forgive him.” Neither are we true to the text when we remove “And if he repents” as the prerequisite to forgiveness.

Our Lord’s purpose in this instruction is to show the relationship between righteousness and love. Righteousness is to hate sin so thoroughly and intensely that it cannot be ignored when a brother or sister in Christ engages in it. Thus, if a brother or sister commits a sin against me I need to confront them, not because confrontation is enjoyable, but because sin is such a serious matter that it cannot go unchecked. Hopefully that brother or sister will be of humble and contrite heart and will repent of the sin committed. When such occurs love dictates that I forgive them.

Do not mistakenly view righteousness and love as set against each other. Should I need to confront a fellow saint about a sin love has as much to do with it as righteousness does. The last thing I want for myself or for a fellow saint is for us to walk around with unresolved sin staining our soul. Righteousness informed by love and love imbued with righteousness is Christ-like. Ours, of course, is to imitate Christ. Adam Litmer

**Sermons:** The Parable of the leaven  
God’s great blessings (Ephesians 1:3-4)

**Reading:** (AM) Psalm 28  
(PM) Psalm 29

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