

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: DJ Matthews (uncle of Julie Patton) has been placed on life support. 3 out of 18 lymph nodes on **Sandy Driver’s** (sister of Bill Morelan) biopsy show cancer. **Autumn Fox**, a fourth grade girl, was struck by a car and is in critical condition at UK. **Beth Erickson** (sister-in-law of Neal) has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson

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, Tony Tyree

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	Joshua 14-17, Luke 17	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	Joshua 18-21, Luke 18, Psalm 15	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Joshua 22-24, Luke 19, Psalm 116	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Judges 1-3, Luke 20, Psalm 16	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	Judges 4-6, Luke 21	Adam Litmer	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
		Adam Litmer	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

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

University Heights Messenger

Volume 6--Number 22

May 25, 2014

Comfort For The Brokenhearted

Some words are extremely powerful in that they bring to our minds feelings and thoughts that move us to the very core of our beings. However, when

powerful words begin to be used in common, ordinary ways they become diluted and lose some of their power. Brokenhearted is one such word. It is used to express negative emotions felt at only a surface level and it is used to describe someone who is saddened beyond understanding, someone who is so affected by prevailing conditions that he or she despairs extraordinarily. A dog lover, walking through an animal humane society, might remark, “Seeing those poor creatures just breaks my heart.” Such in no way compares to the misery David felt in his innermost parts when he fully realized he had separated himself from God through his sins involving Bathsheba.

It is evident in the Psalms that David spent a major portion of his life being heartbroken. Just reading how he expressed his utter sadness and his deep despair can bring tears to one’s eyes. 2 Samuel 18:33 records David’s reaction upon learning of the death of Absalom. “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!” Upon reading those words one can easily visualize David’s heart splitting apart as the stormy relationship with his son flashed before his eyes and he became totally aware that he also bore much of the responsibility for the untimely and violent death of his son.

Christians are not spared tragic life events. Bad choices made by family and friends often affect us to such a degree that heartbreak is the word that best fits our reactions. Accidents that result in massive amounts of death and destruction cause generalized emotional pain as we empathize with the suffering of those directly involved. Local news items describing senseless violence of one person against another astound us. We simply cannot get used to the depth of depravity in man’s inhumanity towards man.

But there is heartbreak tied to a more spiritual tragedy, that is, the tragedy of sin and separation from God. When Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph, Joseph responded that he could not sin against God. Every sin is a sin against God, and sin severs one’s relationship with God. Nothing should cause us more heartbreak than to learn that we are no longer in a peaceful relationship with our Maker and our Savior. The words of Psalm 51 are words of heartbreak. “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish.”
Philippians 2:14-15a

cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.” (Verses 1-4)

Why did David address such statements to God? He did so because he knew God to be a God of promise. He knew that God was the only one who could make his broken heart whole again. And so he wrote, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit...The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”* (Verses 10-12, 17)

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

The Elders

Dealing With Those Who Are Contentious

By Sewell Hall

Some people *“receive with meekness the implanted word”* (James 1:27). Others *“generate strife”* with their *“foolish and ignorant disputes”* (2 Timothy 2:23). With the later we are tempted to get in and mix it up, confident that we can out dispute them. In this text the Holy Spirit tells us to avoid such disputes.

We are faced, however, with the problem of saving such people. In the next verse the Holy Spirit instructs us for this also. *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, and that they may escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”* (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

The legitimate goal of controversy is to *“correct those who are in opposition”* and to bring them to *“the acknowledgment of the truth.”* It is not to make points in our favor, to just win an argument, or to win applause from those who already agree with us.

We are to view opponents, not as opposing us but as opposing themselves (verse 25). Their attitudes and conduct are in opposition to their own best interests. The moment we begin to think of them as *our* enemies we are tempted to become vindictive, sarcastic, and bitter—even devious. This is the very spirit this passage is intended to forbid.

We are to consider them captives to Satan (verse 26). The first sin resulted when *“the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness”* (2 Corinthians 11:3). Satan is always our adversary; he is the enemy. *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this present age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Ephesians 6:15). The fact that they are captives of Satan should encourage our sympathy. If *“Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’*” (Jude 9), then it hardly becomes us to revile those who are Satan’s captives.

We are to be gentle (verse 24). One who finds a fawn caught in a bear trap will be gentle in his efforts to release it. The rescue may monetarily increase the pain, but we take no pleasure

in inflicting such pain and every effort is made to minimize it. Scripture nowhere encourages unkindness toward anyone.

We are to be patient (verse 24), “forbearing” (ASV), “not resentful” (NIV). These words imply the possibility of abuse from the student. Here we face one of our greatest challenges to be like Jesus *“who committed no sin, not was guilt found in his mouth; who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return”* (1 Peter 2:21-22).

We are to be humble (verse 25), “meek” (ASV). Pride is a major temptation in controversy. *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted”* (Galatians 6:1-2).

Our hope that those in error may be corrected is based upon the hope that *“God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledgement of the truth”* (verse 25). We cannot force correction by our overpowering logic, awesome skill, or astounding knowledge. This explains Paul’s approach to the Corinthians: *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). *“It is God who works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:13).

We understand that God does not work repentance directly, but by the truth. Our part is to be *“apt to teach”* (verse 24). Truth is the only weapon provided us. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God for pulling down strongholds, casting down argument and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

With these verses in mind, we commend one who has *“come to his senses”* (verse 26), and we praise God who has given him *“repentance unto the acknowledgement of the truth”*; but there is no room for us to boast. *“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord”* (Jeremiah 9:24, 1 Corinthians 1:31).

Sermons: Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Parable of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price (Matthew 13:44-46)

Reading: (AM) Psalm 32
(PM) Psalm 33

The Blog: The blog will be updated tomorrow morning.