

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:

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, Wilma Lawson, Janett Brundige’s mother and stepfather, Diane Whitehead, Tony Tyree, Sandy Driver, Autumn Fox, Beth Erickson, Dan Byers, Erlene Young, Lisa Powell’s father, The Don Orthober family

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	Proverbs 3-5, Romans 10	ELDERS Garry Banks David Collins John Thompson	DEACONS Troy Antle Richard Brundige Matt Thompson Adam Litmer	Sunday
Tue	Proverbs 6-7, Romans 11, Psalm 7			Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed	Proverbs 8-10, Romans 12, Psalm 144			Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Thu	Proverbs 11-13, Romans 13, Psalm 8	EVANGELIST Adam Litmer	Bill Morelan Jim Parsons Pat Seabolt Adam Daniels Jamie Powell	1st Fri. of Month Singing: 7:30 PM
Fri	Proverbs 14-15, Romans 14			3rd Fri. of Month Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Finished for the time being)

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To Be or Not To Be

Jesus had much to say to his apostles as the time of his death drew near. In John 14:15-31 Jesus equated obedience of divine commands with love for the Son of God. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus said. Moments later, Jesus added, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” Again, in answer to a question from Judas (not Iscariot) Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

The next “meet and greet” planning session is scheduled for August 3 at 4:45.

Deity has the authority to command at will, and has done so through the inspired Word. Commands that are expressed as “thou shalt” or “thou shalt not” are easy to spot. Commands may also be stated through the use of action verbs, i.e. “lay by him in store,” or “do this in memory of me.” But there are other divine commands that are, perhaps, not as recognizable due to how they are expressed in the scriptures. Such commands often begin with the word “be,” or some form of that verb. Two passages that come readily to mind are: *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind* (Romans 12:2) and *be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*, (1 Corinthians 15:58).

What God is expressing in commanding in this manner is the state of being, or state of existence, that He expects His people to possess. When a Christian is no longer conformed to the world, but is transformed, his very being or existence is affected. God says for us to be a certain way, to exist from hereon in a certain way. God allows for no vacillation, no fence sitting, If you are straddling the fence between the world and God’s way, then your state of

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being is that of a fence sitter, and a fence sitter has not become transformed by the renewing of his or her mind.

What does God expect of His people? What should the Christian’s life look like? What does God say defines the Christian’s very existence? He has not left us without answers to such questions. Please consider the following passages of scripture:

1 Peter 1:16b “***Be ye holy; for I am holy.***”

2 Corinthians 6:12 “*Wherefore come out from among them, and **be ye** separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*”

James 1:22 “*But **be ye** doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

Ephesians 4:32 “*And **be ye** kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*”

Such passages are found throughout Scripture and they define who we are as Christians; they furnish us with our identity and our persona, i.e. who we are to others. Perhaps verse 4 of *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* will have added significance the next time we sing it.

“Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o’er **my being** absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.” The Elders

Two Ways to "Soundness"

By Robert Turner

Three men rebel against hypocrisy, but they vary greatly in their reactions.

The first man turns to total moral abandonment. He throws off all restraint as he gives himself to the fulfillment of every fleshly desire. "Self" becomes his god. He hardens himself to the tears of his family as he goes out to do what he wants to do. His "justification" for his shameful conduct: "At least I'm not a hypocrite!"

The second man goes to the opposite extreme. He is fed up with the weakness and hypocrisy that he sees in all the churches, and he is not going to be like such people. He will become a Christian and from the beginning "he's going to live with it." He will be an example of what a Christian really ought to be. To him, the cure for hypocrisy is perfection.

The third man wants to avoid hypocrisy in his life, but at the same time, he

has a deep sense of his own imperfection. So he takes on no air of infallibility, but sets out to be genuine. His genuineness soon becomes apparent to others. He does not claim perfection, but he strives for perfection. As he worships God, he does not claim to be perfect as a worshipper, but when the singing begins he gives his heart to what he's doing; when the prayer is led, he listens and makes the prayer his prayer; during the supper he meditates on the suffering of the Lord; and throughout the sermon he participates in a study of God's word; if his mind wanders, he brings it back; and when the worship period ends, he asks God to forgive him for his failure and to accept his worship in spite of his imperfection. When he goes to his job, he does not claim perfection among his fellow workers, but they know that he will try to give eight hours of work for eight hours of pay; that he is trustworthy; that he is pure in speech and life; and that if he is ever overcome by pressure around him to sin, he will humbly seek the forgiveness of those who have been wronged.

He is the same in the home. His family respects him because he is genuine and does not claim strength and goodness beyond reality. His family sees his faults, but his one redeeming quality that enables him to maintain their respect is his ability to say, "I'm sorry." In every area of his life, he walks humbly before his God and his fellow man.

Our third man has found the true cure for hypocrisy. The first man, if he does not repent, will someday be a miserable wretch, his life completely torn and shattered. The second man is headed for disillusionment. His goals are unreal; his outlook is totally wrong. But the man who "walks humbly with his God" and is wholly free from guile is a blessed man indeed. His life and his attitude with God is what God wants it to be and he lives in hope of heaven.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

“Sermons: (AM) Choosing to abound in kingdom work
(PM) Concerning love

Reading: (AM) Psalm 45
(PM) Psalm 46

The Blog: The blog will be updated during the week.