

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:

Rejoice! Jill Harrison put on Christ last Lord’s Day evening!

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 Erlene Young, The Don Orthober family

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	Proverbs 16-18, Romans 15	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	Proverbs 19-21, Romans 16, Psalm 40	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Proverbs 22-23, 1 Thessalonians 1, Psalm 117	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Proverbs 24-25, 1 Thessalonians 2, Psalm 41	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	Proverbs 26-28, 1 Thessalonians 3	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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Good News

“He’s alive,” said the voice on the phone. We had anticipated bad news with such dread that the good news stunned us almost as much as being informed two days earlier that our son was missing in action following a firefight with terrorists. “He’s very much alive, with some leg wounds, but with therapy he will walk again like before.” Quickly, our worst fears evaporated, replaced by sheer joy to be shared with family and friends.

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

Good news does wonderful things for people. We thrive on good news. Good news makes us happy, full of joy, blessed. It elicits within us the desire to be good and kind to others. But did you know that some people actually fear receiving good news? That condition is called euphobia. When confronted with hearing good news, a euphobic individual will experience any of the symptoms associated with most phobias. Such symptoms include anxiety, dread, panic, irregular breathing, excessive sweating, nausea, and difficulty articulating. What a strange phenomenon! But perhaps not so strange after all when it comes to religion

Do you remember what the angel said to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus? “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:10-14) Regarding this good news, Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

The gospel is good news and nothing but good news. There is no better news for mankind. Thus, one would expect that such news would be joyfully received by everyone. Not so! Some people reject it outright. They say, “It’s not good news for me.” Others simply do not believe the good news of the gospel. They consider writings and teachings by others to be more credible than the good news of the gospel and when it contradicts the clear teaching of the scriptures they choose those writings over the gospel.

Still others believe the gospel to be good news, but conclude that it requires nothing from them. Such an understanding of the gospel, at best, places them in some very bad company indeed. “*You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the **demons believe—and shudder!***” (James 2:19) Finally, there are those for whom the good news is good news only if they can change it to suit themselves. Paul addressed such people when he said, “*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*” (Galatians 1:8-9)

Can you imagine parents reacting in one of the above ways to the good news that a son missing in action had been found, wounded, but very much alive? “He’s alive? So what! It means nothing to us.” “We hear what you are saying, but we just don’t believe it.” “We believe you. Thank goodness nothing is required from us.” “Great! He’s alive, and we just know he will walk again. But he won’t need therapy. Yes, we understand what the therapist said, but there are lots of ways for him to walk again.”

The good news is the power of God unto salvation. Do not reject it. Believe it. Do what it requires of you. And, don’t ever change it to suit you. Then, you too, approaching the end of your earthly existence can repeat the inspired words of Paul, the apostle. “*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*” (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

The Elders
Galatians 5:13 says,” *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*” The New Testament is quite clear: saints are to be servants. We are to consider the needs of our brethren, seek out opportunities to fill those needs to the best of our abilities, and live as selflessly as we can. However, there is a time in the Christian’s life when being a servant to the brethren becomes especially difficult, not because of an unwillingness to do it, but because the demand on our time is constant and so very demanding. I am speaking of the years when our children are very young, very needy, and always requiring attention.

Marks Of Jesus

Dan Shipley

“*Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the marks of Jesus*”(Galatians 6:17). With these words the apostle Paul concludes his remarks concerning the circumcision which the Judaizing teachers were seeking to bind upon Christians. In contrast to this body-mark insisted upon by these Jews as proof of obedience, Paul offers his “marks of Jesus” as a truer trademark of allegiance. As with warriors of old, these scars were

Paul’s badges of honor. They were evidence of being on active duty for the King. They proved dedicated involvement for Jesus.

The conflict, which scarred the body of Paul, continues. Every faithful follower of Christ stands on the same battlefield—one that is stained with the blood of the Savior Himself. Loyalty to Christ and His gospel makes opposition unavoidable. The soldier of the cross not only abstains from sinful practices, he boldly reproves them (Eph5:11). Following Christ means entering the arena of conflict, and to live godly in Him is to suffer persecution (2 Tim 3:12).

As the conflict continues, so do the casualties. Those who will stand where Paul stood need not expect to escape unscathed. They too will incur “marks of Jesus” just as real, if not as apparent, as Paul’s. For some, allegiance to Christ has meant a divided family (Matt. 10:34-37). For others it has meant the deep wounds of a severed friendship. None can deny the hurt and injuries inflicted by hostile and vindictive brethren. Sincere hearts have been cut deeply by slanderous tongues. Such wounds have inevitable scars that abide for a lifetime.

But not every man who suffers does so as a Christian and not all marks are of Jesus. Even false teachers encounter opposition and conflict that they construe as proof of their faithfulness. Suffering, in itself, is no more a sign of loyalty than circumcision. Error, no doubt, can boast as many martyrs as truth, but in no way does this enhance error or those who die for it.

Marks of Jesus are incurred only as the result of faithfulness to Him as His word. Christians need not *seek* conflict and its fruits for it will surely come in following Christ. The faithful must learn to *expect* sufferings, persecutions, injustices, social pressure, railings, and reprisals from within and without. In fact, they should be more surprised when they don’t come than when they do. Take a moment to read Matthew 5:10-11.

The marks we avoid by doing and/or saying nothing may be the very marks we need to enter heaven.

“Sermons: (AM) Choosing to trust God
(PM) “For he himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Reading: (AM) Psalm 47
(PM) Psalm 48

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