

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: Sarah Brundige (Richard’s mother) passed away last Wednesday. Let us remember the family in our prayers.
Our members: Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd, Diane Thompson
Others: Mamie Dart, Casey Sparrow, Hope Vinogradov, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert 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

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	1 Kings 10-11, 2 Chronicles 9, 1 Timothy 6	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	Ecclesiastes 1-3, 2 Timothy 1, Psalm 45	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Ecclesiastes 4-6, 2 Timothy 2, Psalm 125	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Ecclesiastes 7-9, 2 Timothy 3, Psalm 46	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	Ecclesiastes 10-12, 2 Timothy 4	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

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

University Heights Messenger

Volume 6--Number 38

August 24, 2014

“The Righteous Shall Live By His Faith”

By Adam Litmer

God has never commanded His people to ignore the reality of their situation. When difficulties surround us, wicked people abuse us, or circumstances become painful, our God has never told us to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that it’s not really happening.

The prophet Habakkuk prophesied sometime shortly before the Babylonian captivity. His eyes were wide open to the trials of the godly at that time. He found himself struggling to find God through all the wickedness and violence of the day. Speaking for the righteous remnant, his opening words are filled with pain and an inability to understand God’s apparent inactivity.

“O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you ‘Violence!’ and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.” (1:2-4)

“Why?” Such a tiny word and yet one that at times can be loaded with anguish and pain! Habakkuk joins voice with such stalwarts as Job, David, and Asaph to ask God why the wicked seem to be given free reign while the righteous suffer at their hands? Sometimes it even seems as though it pays to be wicked! That *can’t* be right, can it?

God responds to Habakkuk’s first complaint by sharing His stunning plan (1:5-11). God was going to use a nation worse than Judah to punish Judah! God was planning to take the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation, and throw them directly at Jerusalem. The Chaldeans created their own rules, their own form of justice, and worshipped their own might. Judah was going to be punished by a nation even worse than they were!

Habakkuk found himself even more flummoxed upon hearing God’s plan. Recognizing that the Chaldeans were being used to punish Judah, he still could not fathom how God could bring Himself to do it. Note how Habakkuk wrestles with himself in his second complaint.

“Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for

Welcome back to all the college students!
The young adult class begins today. Brother David Collins, one of our elders, will be teaching Revelation upstairs.

reproof (Habakkuk is exactly right in this. However, he wrestles with the idea of God using a wicked nation to punish His people in his very next sentence—AL) *You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?*” (12-13)

At the end of the day, Habakkuk’s complaints can be summed up in three words—“I don’t understand.” I think honesty demands we all admit that we have been in a similar frame of mind at times. Who among us has *never* questioned why God makes the decisions He makes? Why does God allow some very righteous people to suffer? Why does God allow some very wicked people to prosper? Why? Interestingly, God did not answer Habakkuk according to the questions Habakkuk asked. He informed him that the Chaldeans would ultimately be destroyed because of their wickedness but that was about the extent of His response to Habakkuk’s specific query.

Rather than explaining the details of His plans to Habakkuk, He informed him of a truth that must guide the life of every saint, *“The righteous shall live by his faith”* (2:4b). The righteous person, regardless of the circumstance, lives by faith. The righteous person, even when he or she does not understand why a thing is happening, lives by faith. God’s response to Habakkuk, and every saint who asked similar questions throughout the Scriptures, is always the same: trust, believe, maintain, have faith.

We don’t have to understand why God does all the things He does or permits all the things He permits. Our feeble minds could never comprehend the depths of His thinking. Fortunately, our faith is not dependent upon our ability to explain every happening of life. Our faith is dependent upon the power, wisdom, and knowledge of our God. His final statement to Habakkuk is, *“But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”* I will trust Him, even when I don’t understand. How about you?

Be With Me Lord

By John Thompson

Few hymns capture the essence of being a Christian better than *Be With Me Lord*. Let’s explore the words of this spiritual song.

Be with me, Lord, I cannot live without Thee. Without You I may exist, but I cannot live, not really. I may function in society as well as anyone else, performing all of the duties required by the various relationships I have. I may even excel at certain things just as Paul made reference to his own achievements in Philippians 3:4-6. *“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.”*

But when You are with me, Lord, I, too, like Paul, can set proper priorities and really live. *“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain*

Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)

I dare not try to take one step alone. When will I ever fully learn that even one step without You, Lord, makes me vulnerable to the evil one? I know that self-reliance has its place, but not when it comes to spiritual matters. I know this, but the serpent’s statement to Eve, *“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,”* (Genesis 3:5) continues to have a strong appeal. I need to be constantly warned that taking a dare only leads to trouble. I need to be constantly reminded that even though I can (and must) discern between good and evil, I will never be as wise as you. Knowing this, I dare not even try to take one step without You.

I cannot bear the loads of life, unaided, I need thy strength to lean myself upon. Life does get heavy at times. Sometimes I feel like Atlas, condemned to carry on my shoulders the weight of the world. I feel my shoulders begin to ache and my legs wobble from the strain, and I know that collapse is imminent without Your strength. I gain confidence from Paul’s statement in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. *“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Be with me, Lord, I cannot live without thee. I dare not try to take one step alone. I cannot bear the loads of life unaided, I need thy strength to lean myself upon. Those are such meaningful words set to a beautiful melody. May they be on our lips and minds every day.

Sermons: (AM) Jesus Christ—The Fulfillment of Scripture
(PM) Jesus Christ—The Suffering Servant

Reading: (AM) Psalm 53
(PM) Psalm 54

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