

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: Let’s continue to pray for the Weatherholt family as they mourn the passing of Leroy. 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 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, Robert Morgan, Sister Parsons, Bennie’s mother

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	2 Kings 15-16, Matthew 21	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	Isaiah 1-3, Matthew 22, Psalm 9	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Isaiah 4-6, Matthew 23	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Micah 1-4, Matthew 24, Psalm 10	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	Micah 5-7, Matthew 25	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

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A Closer Look At A Familiar Passage

Adam Litmer

So they asked him...“Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not?” But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose likeness (image—NKJ) and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer became quiet. (Luke 20:21-26)

This familiar passage shows us the enemies of Jesus attempting to get Him in trouble with Rome, the people, or both. Our Lord’s brilliant answer shows that fulfilling basic civic obligations is not in any way inconsistent with one’s allegiance to God. Passages such as Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-15 further emphasize this point.

However, there is another lesson taught in this place that is rarely mentioned and it revolves around the Lord’s use of the word “image.” The coins of the day were minted with images of Caesar upon them. He had them made, stamped his picture on them, and so in that sense they “belonged” to him. Jesus is instructing them to give Caesar that which is his.

But then Jesus went on to instruct them to give to God the things that are God’s. Having used Caesar’s image just a moment before to make the point that Caesar is owed his rightful due, it is clear that Jesus intends for them to keep the “image” thought in mind. How might such a thought be applied to giving God His due? Easily, in fact. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26-27)

If their coins belonged to Caesar because his image was stamped upon them, then they themselves belonged to God for they were made in His image. The

Our Gospel meeting begins today and goes through Friday. Have you made your plans to attend?

point of this passage goes far beyond simple civic duty to encompass one's ultimate obligation to God. To give Him His due is to give Him the entirety of ourselves for His image is stamped upon us in a much more profound way than Caesar's (or past American presidents, for that matter) was stamped on a coin.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:1-2) What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. (Psalm 116:12-14)

Would you render unto God the things that are God's? Then you must give Him everything that you are. Anything less than whole hearted devotion is too little and fails to make return according to the wonderful benefits done for you (2 Chronicles 32:25). Remember that we are all made in the image of God. This means that we belong to Him. Let's purpose to live with this truth in mind every day of our lives.

Are You a Spiritual Risk-Taker?

By John Thompson

Until now, I was not familiar with the archaic English word "reck." Its pre-English ancestry had roots in German, Saxon, and Norse usage. It means to be mindful of or care about something or someone; to have interest in something or someone. The word has come down to our language today and is mostly used in a negative sense, i.e. reckless. One who is reckless is utterly unconcerned with the consequences of an action; he is without caution, not at all mindful of any risk to himself or others. He scoffs at any suggestion he might injure others; he takes offense if someone points out that he needs to reconsider his course of action or that he needs to be more careful. He might even be eager to take a dare, glorying in the risk. Obviously, the more recklessly one lives, the greater and more various are the risks he takes.

In the English Standard Version of the Bible, the word reckless is found in four passages, none of which speak well of reckless behavior. (Judges 9:4) *And they gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired **worthless and reckless** fellows, who followed him;* (Proverbs 14:16) *One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is **reckless and careless**;* (Luke 15:13) *Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in **reckless** living;* (2 Timothy 3:4) *treacherous, **reckless, swollen with conceit**, lovers of pleasure rather*

than lovers of God. Living recklessly in a spiritual sense is spiritually risky and dangerous just as living recklessly in a physical sense is physically risky and dangerous. Let's consider the risk many spiritually minded people are taking because of certain conclusions arrived at through reckless or careless attention to Bible study.

There are many people who readily acknowledge that Christians practiced immersion in water for remission of sins in the first century. Furthermore, they understand that God approved of immersion in water for remission of sins. Yet, today, these same people practice sprinkling or pouring rather than immersion when God has revealed nothing whereby one might conclude that He approves of those methods. Who is acting more recklessly, the one who is immersed in water for remission of sins knowing that God approves of that method, or the one who is sprinkled, taking a chance that God might approve? Obviously, the one who proceeds with his own course of action without confirmation that God approves and is pleased is living a spiritually reckless life. Which is more risky, doing what God says to do or doing something about which God has said nothing? Which is the more reckless approach, taking God at His word, or not respecting His silence on a matter?

The word "innovation" is often used in conjunction with denominational rites and practices about which the Bible says nothing. An innovation is something new or different that is introduced into what already exists. That which already existed was the practices of the church in the first century, practices that can be discerned from careful, not reckless, study. What now exists in denominational churches are innovations introduced over the centuries. God established an approved pattern in the New Testament. There is no risk at all in worshipping God as He desires. What makes man believe that God approves man's innovations when God is silent concerning those things? Such recklessness is accompanied by a terrible spiritual risk, a risk too horrible even to imagine.

Sermons: (AM) Brother Raymond will be speaking both times

Reading: (AM) Psalm 65
(PM) Psalm 66

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