

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 17

April 28, 2013

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:

Reese Worley continues to do very well. **Glenn Kimberlin** was having some respiratory problems early last week. Let us remember her in our prayers and see what we might do to make her feel better.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Lindsay Morgan

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Dawn Rutledge, Sandy Childress, Mary Wilson, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Taylor Osterling, Vernon Johnson, Ed Sissel

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon	Numbers 26-29, Luke 2	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Tue	Numbers 30-33, Luke 3, Psalm 35	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Numbers 34-36, Luke 4	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Deuteronomy 1-3, Luke 5, Psalm 36	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Fri	Deuteronomy 4-5, Luke 6	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		Adam Litmer	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
			Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

There's A Lesson Here

Communication is so vitally important, isn't it? Suppose the sounds human beings are capable of making with our vocal apparatus had never been developed and organized into language. Can you imagine the frustration and eventual conflict that would arise from even the slightest attempt to make another person understand one's sounds? Even if the sounds uttered within a group of people were organized into a common language, suppose language had developed no further. How would the history of that people be preserved for future generations? Oral traditions have had their place in the preservation of history, but they do not compare with the ability of written language to record the thoughts, intents, plans, purposes, past, present, future, and creativity of human beings.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Without language, God would not have revealed Himself to us. God could have chosen language other than human language. 1 Corinthians 13:1 makes reference to the tongues of men and of angels, but God did not choose the language of angels. Rather He chose the language of men. Hebrews 1:1 states, “*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.*” God used human beings who spoke in human languages to reveal Himself and His will. God did not alter His method of communication when the fullness of time had come to finalize His plan for man's salvation. Hebrews 1:2-3 says, “*but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*”

God has spoken to us by His Son. There is more to those words than just the fact that Jesus spoke words when He lived on earth. There is more than just the fact that He sent the Holy Spirit to complete the revelation from God to man through inspiration of the writers of the New Testament. John, chapter 1, stretches the very limits of our minds with the words used to tell us about Jesus. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.... And*

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the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-3, 14)

What a great and glorious concept that Jesus is the Divine Word! Jesus Himself is the very instrument by which God chose to communicate to the creation in these last days. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* Jesus was the Divine Word incarnate, that is, given bodily form, manifested in the flesh. Everything Jesus said, everything He did, every thought He expressed, every gesture He made communicated God to man. To have experienced Him in any way at all was to have experienced Deity. Can we even begin to fathom what that must have been like?

Yet, we, today, are at no loss or disadvantage for not having lived when Jesus walked the earth, because it has all be written and preserved for us. *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* (John 20:30-31) Thank God for language! The Elders

Enduring to the End

Steve Clark

Five hundred miles of grueling, intense racing ends with one driver finally crossing the finish line ahead of the others. Though not much of an auto racing fan, I’m fascinated every year with the endurance required to complete the Indy 500. While superior preparation and driving skill are no doubt significant factors in an Indy victory, it seems the greatest accomplishment is simply to make it at all—to finish the race.

This image of sustained, agonizing toil is purposely placed before us in Hebrews 12:1, as we are exhorted to run with endurance the race that is set before us. Over and over in Scripture , the triumphant spiritual life is characterized not by the quick sprint, but by the completed marathon.

God’s rewards are not promised to those whose sudden and swift action saves the day as much as to those who endure to the end toward the saving of their souls. It’s sad that most of what appeals to people today emphasizes the quick hit, the fast buck, or the instant winner. Little value is placed on the persevering effort that outlasts trials and rides out discouragements. We don’t work for a year to receive what someone might win in a moment.

Our heroes may strike out several hundred times for every grand slam they hit. We praise those who make millions is a corporate takeover and breathe a weary sigh for those who spend thirty years before retiring on a modest pension.

Yet, it’s hard to ignore the deep respect shows by the inspired writers for the virtues of endurance. When God paints a hero of faith, the portrait is of one who keeps plugging away, motivated by something his peers often do not understand. The winner often shoots for a target that no one else even sees. As Christopher Morley once observed, *“Big shots are only little shots who keep on shooting.”*

Perhaps the greatest courage is shown when we go to work each day and return home with our integrity intact. Surely God smiles most on us when we fold our aching fingers around a pencil to write on a card for a sick friend, while we know the writing will make it more painful to eat the next meal.

Moses is said to have endured, *“as seeing him who is invisible”* (Hebrews 11:27). Earlier in the same book, Abraham obtained the promise because he, *“patiently endured”* (6:15). Paul told Timothy that, *“if we endure, we shall also reign with Him”* (2 Timothy 2:12).

It is endurance that brings fruit to our faith and rounds out our character (James 1:3-4). Endurance overcomes our temptations, proves us, and brings a crown of life (James 1:12). By practicing Job’s perseverance, we see the Lord’s purpose and experience His compassion (James 5:12).

We should be reminded that God is infinitely longsuffering with us and that we should be patient with each other (2 Peter 3:9). We need to think about the “good work” He has begun in us and realize His intention to complete that work (Philippians 1:6). And, we have got to remember that He is with us every step of the way, energizing us when we falter. He is the One *“able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”*

Life is full of pit stops and caution flags. One lap follows another and leads to yet another. Many start the race with very high hopes, but only a few have the endurance to complete it. See you at the finish line!

Sermons: (AM) What about homosexuality? (PM) God’s Grace

Reading: (AM) John 12:1-26 (PM) John 12:27-50