

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 18

May 3, 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:

**Glenn Kimberlin** has been hospitalized due to breathing issues. She is to enter a rehab facility when her health permits. **Jim Parsons** is in the Central Baptist ICU at the time of this writing. Please limit visits, as it interferes with the rest he desperately needs.

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

**Others:** Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barbara 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, Reese Worley, 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>
<b>Mon</b>	Deuteronomy 6-9, Luke 7	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Tue</b>	Deuteronomy 10-14, Luke 8, Psalm 5	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Wed</b>	Deuteronomy 15-18, Luke 9, Psalm 115	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Thu</b>	Deuteronomy 19-22, Luke 10, Psalm 6	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
<b>Fri</b>	Deuteronomy 23-26, Luke 11	<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**

Matthew 9:12 and 1 Corinthians 10:12 may not seem, on the surface, to be connected.

However, if we mine the scriptures a little, dig beneath the surface, we will likely find that the two passages combine to give us fair warning about the danger of self-pride.

Among the men Jesus chose to be his apostles was a tax collector named Matthew. Jesus dined with this man, prompting the Pharisees to ask one of their typically loaded questions. Rather than ask Jesus directly, they posed the question to his disciples, "*Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?*" Jesus heard the question and responded, "*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.*"

Jesus was saying that he was right where he needed to be at that particular time. He was tending to the sick, the spiritually sick. Of course the Pharisees, in their pride and arrogance of their self-righteousness, believed themselves to need nothing of a spiritual nature. Even though they needed the master physician just as much as did Matthew, it would have done no good to have dined with them because they were blind to their own spiritual needs. And so, Jesus sent them on their self-satisfied way with these words: "*Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.*" (Matthew 9:13)

1 Corinthians 10:13 states, in a just a few succinct words, the danger of self-pride. "*Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*" Pride and self-deception go hand in hand. Wherever you find the one, the other will be lurking as well. Include self-righteousness in the picture too. They all played their parts in what went into making a Pharisee the arrogant, self-serving, selfish, boastful, spiritual leader Jesus condemned throughout his ministry.

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."  
Matthew 9:12

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Do we need the Great Physician? Well, not all of the time, and certainly less and less as time goes on. Most of us are physically well most of the time. But there are times when we need to see the doctor and get treatment. To fail to see the need, to deceive ourselves that we have no need of the physician is to foolishly disregard the warning. In the same way we will, from time to time, need the Great Physician, the healer of souls. Let not arrogance and pride keep us from Jesus when we need him.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) *“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.”* (2 Corinthians 9:15) The Elders

**“In due season we will reap.”**

Galatians 6:9 says, *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* How often do we pause to truly consider the blessings we receive in this life for serving God? Think about the blessing of fellow saints. As Christians we’ve got people around us that we know care for us tremendously. There’s not a Christian in this auditorium tonight who would not give a brother or sister the shirt off their back if that were what was needed. If we need a favor we’ve got brethren lining up to offer their assistance. Being a Christian means that we’ll never want for a shoulder to cry on or someone to rejoice with. We’ll never have to go hungry or live on the street. What a blessing brethren are and that’s but one aspect of what we enjoy as Christians on earth!

Yet it makes me wonder if there are any who serve God only for the physical blessings they see available for doing so? You may recall that Satan accused Job of serving God only because of the temporal blessings he was getting out of it. Take a moment to read the exchange that takes place between God and Satan in Job 1:8-12. Satan essentially said, “Look at all the stuff you’ve blessed him with. Take it away and he’ll hurl curses instead of prayers.” Satan was wrong just as God knew that he would be.

What if we were in Job’s position? What if remaining faithful to the Lord would not be beneficial to us in the short term? What if remaining faithful to the Lord could potentially cost us everything here on earth? If God were to grant Satan the permission to remove one by one the temporal blessings that we enjoy for being Christians, how many would Satan have to remove before you or I would turn our backs on God and walk away? We would do very well to remind ourselves that while God has promised true righteousness will be rewarded, that reward primarily has to do with what we’ll receive in

heaven, not on earth.

Thus, if we are to not grow weary in doing good, there are some things we need to do. First, we must learn patience. This is the quality of character that Job is known best for and it was such a vital part of his remaining faithful. Patience is the ability to endure, hold out, bear up, and persevere. Patience is what permits a person to take the long view of things rather than focusing all their time and effort on the short-term, even when their short-term circumstances are very difficult and discouraging. The patient person is a person of trust, trust that what has been promised for the future is more than enough to keep him steady in the present. Thus we return to the man Job and the characteristic that kept him faithful throughout some of the most painful and heart rending circumstances any man has been forced to experience. James 5:10-11 says, *“As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”*

Truly patience is one of the greatest biblical virtues. We find it inseparably connected with faith many times in the Scriptures. Take a moment to read two very important passages from Hebrews dealing with this topic (Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:35-39). One of the shortest sayings of our Lord is also one of His most important. In Luke 21:19 He teaches in these words, *“By your endurance you will gain your lives.”* From time to time commercials laud the “staying power” of a particular engine within a truck. While staying power is a good thing in the engine of a truck, it’s an essential component in the engine of a Christian. Jesus has used several different phrases to express the great truth that should be burned into our brains, *“But the one who endures to the end will be saved”* (Matthew 24:13).

Honestly, I don’t know what’s coming our way. I have no idea what tomorrow holds for us. But I do know that my hope is not in this country or on this earth. And because of that I take comfort in Paul’s words from Romans 8:24-25. *“For in this hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”* Let us never lose site of the fact that this race we’re running here can only be completed with endurance and patience. Without these Job could not have survived his ordeal and without them we will not survive spiritually until the time we stand before our Judge.

**Sermons:** (AM) What about abortion? (PM) Calling on the name of the Lord

**Reading:** (AM) John 13:1-20 (PM) John 13:21-38