

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 23

June 9, 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:

Let us remember the **Kimberlin family** after the passing of Glenn. **Whitney Wright** (daughter of Don Wright) has stage four kidney cancer and is seeking entrance into an experimental program. **Arlena Poynter** received favorable results from her tests last Tuesday. **Ed Sissel's** cancer has spread. Let us keep he and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Lindsay Morgan, Jim Parsons

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, Sandy Childress, Reese Worley, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Taylor Osterling, Vernon Johnson, Ed Sissel, Lavon Speer

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon	1 Samuel 9—10, Acts 8	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	1 Samuel 11-13, Acts 9, Psalm 38	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	1 Samuel 14, Acts 10, Psalm 124	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	1 Samuel 15-16, 1 Chronicles 1, Acts 11, Psalm 39	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	1 Samuel 17, 1 Chronicles 2, Acts 12		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
		Adam Litmer	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)

There's A Lesson Here

What do King Herod, Peter, and we have in common? The three mentioned all made rash promises and suffered because of them. King Herod was so entertained by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias that he vowed to her, *"Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."* (Mark 6:23) Of course, we know that, after consulting with her mother, she asked for the head of John the Baptist. We too, sometimes, make rash, hasty promises when we have been exceptionally pleased with another.

"When you vow a vow to God, do not delay in paying it...Pay what you vow."
Ecclesiastes 5:4

Upon completion of the Lord's Supper, Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus, speaking of the events of His death about to unfold, said that they would fall away. Peter, so confident that his loyalty was exceedingly stronger than that of the rest of the disciples, said, *"Even though they all fall away, I will not."* (Mark 14:29) Again, we know that in just a few hours Peter would deny any knowledge of the Son of God. How easy it must have been for him to eagerly proclaim and promise his loyalty without giving due consideration to what fulfillment of the promise would require of him. He apparently was not even aware that he was breaking his promise until the rooster crowed and reminded him of what Jesus had said to him.

"And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." (11:30) Frequently, our zeal and desire to serve drive reason and sense from our minds. We become so caught up in the moment, or so enthusiastic over the cause we are seeking to advance, that we give no thought to all of the variables over which we have no control. Verses 34 to 39 tell us the tragic ending to Jephthah's rash promise to God. *"Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I*

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have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.” And she said to him, “My father, you have opened your mouth to the Lord; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites.” So she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions.” So he said, “Go.” Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains. And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made.

We promised God to serve, to learn, to follow, to teach, to unite, to live righteously. Were these rash promises? It is doubtful that we intended them to be rash, but perhaps they have worked out that way. May we keep in mind the wisdom of the preacher in Ecclesiastes 5:4-5, *“When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.”* The Elders

Thoughts on Fear (2)

While there is a fear that is healthy and edifying to the soul (fear of God, for example), some fear can cripple a soul and lead to its ruin. In this article we will identify such fear in an effort to equip ourselves to fend against it.

First, ignorance has always caused the type of fear that produces constant worry and anxiety. Children are afraid of the dark because they don't know what those shadows are or why they're there. This causes their little imaginations to run wild. Even adults are often frightened of the unknown. To overcome it we seek to gain knowledge. I know of congregations who will study every book in the Bible except for Revelation. They will go through all the books of the New Testament, finish with Jude, and then head back to Matthew to start again. I understand that Revelation is challenging and often abused but how can Christians who claim to believe in the divine inspiration of Scripture virtually ignore an entire book contained within? A person can be fearful of teaching and studying the book of Revelation; but when it is taught and studied thoroughly he will see what a beautiful and encouraging book it is and the fear will go away. Why? Because he has gained knowledge and the unknown is not as unknown as it once was.

Our own personal feelings can lead us to crippling fear if we're not careful. Often we find ourselves in situations where we feel small and weak. However, we must learn to cope with problems when they arise and not paralyze ourselves with fear over that which *could* happen. Jesus warned against such fear in Matthew 6:34. *“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”* When one stops worrying about what *could* happen and deals with

problems when they arise, they will see that they feel far less anxiety and are much stronger in overcoming their daily trials.

Unbelief and crippling fear are constant companions. The secret of triumphing over that type of fear is faith in God. On the other hand, a *lack* of faith holds the door wide open for terrible fear to invade our hearts. It is important for us to remember that there is no problem too great for God to solve. There is not a burden too heavy for God to carry. There is not a battle too overwhelming for God to fight--and win! He is big enough to conquer anything that robs us of peace and leave us fearful. Take a moment to carefully read Isaiah 12:2. That verse does not say, “When I am afraid, I will trust.” Rather, it said, “I will trust, *and will not be afraid.*” Faith is medicine to cure the disease, but even more it is spiritual power to keep us from becoming infected in the first place.

As we have seen, fear is a very real problem. Simply stating that we must overcome it does not do much good. Fortunately, as He always does, our God tells us *how* to do what He requires in the pages of Scripture. First, we must learn to trust Him. Spending much time in praise, worship, and prayer (Philippians 4:4-7) helps tremendously. The peace of Philippians 4:7 only comes to those who practice those things described in the verses prior. We rejoice, worship, and pray when we are with our brethren but it will do us tremendous good when we learn to do the same in private. Let us spend time alone with God. Let us *find the time* to say a simple prayer of thanks for all that He has done and continues to do for us several times during our days. We will be better for it.

Let us lay hold of the Word of God. It is not here just to give us instructions and commands, but to encourage and make us strong. Let us make its promises and blessings our own. We *cannot* survive the situations and circumstances that cause crippling fear and anxiety unless we are armed with our sword, The Word of God.

We are not so perfect that we will avoid all anxiety. However, we *can* avoid the constant crippling kind by remembering that faithful children of God ultimately have nothing to fear. *“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”* (Romans 8:15) Numerous times in His Word God tells His people to “Fear not” or “Do not be afraid.” He wouldn't tell us that if it was impossible and if there wasn't a reason. Why not take just a moment to read the beloved 23 psalm? If the Lord is our Shepherd, what have we to fear? AL

Sermons: (AM) Discipleship 4

(PM) God's providence 3

Reading: (AM) John 18:15-27

(PM) John 18:28-40