

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 25

June 30, 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:

Jacob Profit is the young man who was struck by the car on New Circle Road. His wounds are severe and he needs prayers. He is in the UK Medical Center. The **Dixon's** (Jay and Julia Ann) need our prayers as their unborn child faces significant health issues.

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, Whitney Wright

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon 1 Samuel 26-27, 1 Chronicles 8, Acts 18	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue 1 Samuel 28-29, 1 Chronicles 9, Acts 19	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed 1 Samuel 30-31, 1 Chronicles 10, Acts 20	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu 2 Samuel 1-2, 1 Chronicles 11, Acts 21, Psalm 96, 106	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri 2 Samuel 3-5, 1 Chronicles 12, Acts 22, Psalm 122	EVANGELIST	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
	Adam Litmer	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)

There's A Lesson Here

Numerous are the opponents of godliness and righteousness. Every time the cause of Christ is opposed grants the Christian an opportunity to stand with Christ. But to do so places the Christian at risk; it jeopardizes our comfort. And so, too many times we are faced with an uncomfortable dilemma. On the one hand we know our duty; we realize what God expects of us; we are well aware that we should boldly proclaim ourselves to be followers of Jesus and His laws. But on the other hand we desire to avoid confrontation. And so, too many times we resolve our dilemma by being secret disciples.

Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple (John 19:38). He was afraid of the Jews who opposed Jesus. He did not want it known that he was a follower of Jesus, and so he kept it secret. Nicodemus was probably another secret disciple of Jesus. Two times the scriptures describe Nicodemus as the man who came to Jesus by night (John 3:2 and 19:39). Who knows how many times they kept silent as the enemies of Jesus became more bold and demanding of his death. But let's remember them for the fact that ultimately they did take a stand for Christ.

"After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews (John 19:38-40)."

The lesson for us is that we cannot take a stand for Christ and remain a secret disciple. Taking a stand is a public matter because it consists of proclaiming the gospel of Christ when the truth of God's word is challenged. You cannot proclaim against a thing and keep it secret. When Joseph asked Pilate for the body of Jesus and then he and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus from the cross and applied the myrrh and aloes, their discipleship became public. It took the death of Jesus for them to take a stand as His disciples. What does it take for us to stand and declare ourselves to be for Christ and against evil?

Friday concluded a wonderful meeting with Don Wright. Thanks to everyone who made efforts to attend!

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**. **Stand** therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in **opening my mouth boldly to proclaim** the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may **declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.**”* (Ephesians 6:10-20) The Elders

God was his everything

Psalm 3 is a favorite psalm of many people, myself included. The superscription tells us that David penned it while fleeing from his son, Absalom. This short psalm tells us exactly what God was to David. I believe we can benefit by considering its eight verses.

“O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God.” (1-2) Many were David’s foes, indeed. Former friends had aligned themselves with David’s rebellious son. Those who had once sat at David’s table, feasting and laughing, were now seeking his life. What’s worse, they were attacking the very foundation of the godly king’s faith. “There is no salvation for him in God.” Could more painful words be cast David’s direction? This is a clear effort on the part of David’s enemies to plant doubt in his mind, to cause him to question God’s ability or willingness to save him. They failed. The remainder of this psalm is a beautiful expression of all that God was and meant to David. As we shall see, God was *everything*.

“But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill.” (3-4) The circumstance was bleak and the outcome seemed very much in question. Absalom had garnered the support of very powerful, wise, and influential people. David was outnumbered and forced to flee from his own city. Any observer would have said that the balance had shifted in Absalom’s favor. He would have said that David was despondent and had abandoned any hope of rescue. He would have been wrong. As David wrote in the

words above, God was his protector, encourager, and deliverer. One who has experienced God’s aid innumerable times is not so easily overwhelmed as to forget it. When he remembers God, his entire outlook begins to change. See it in the following words.

“I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.” Sleep often abandons those faced with great obstacles as worry weights constantly on their minds. They cannot find peace or rest until the obstacle either crushes them or they somehow manage to sidestep it. This need never be the case for the faithful child of God. David was not sure how the situation would be resolved, but he *was* sure that God had been his sustainer in the past and would be again. Armed with that knowledge, David laid his head down and slept the peaceful sleep of the trusting. Those thousands arrayed against him had not disappeared, but God was his confidence and the army does not exist who can break through God. Thus, in the midst of tremendous turbulence and a maelstrom of chaos, David closed his eyes and went to sleep. God preserved him through the night and watched over him as he awoke. David cried out for help to his God upon waking.

“Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessings be on your people!” (7-8) Alone, David and his army were in no position to overcome Absalom’s forces. So what? David and his army were *not* alone because God was David’s victory. Though David and his men were prepared to serve as vessels and instruments, David knew that God would be the one to strike his enemies on the cheek and break their teeth. They had taunted David by telling him that there was no salvation to be had in God. This was a feeble and puny attempt to overthrow the faith of one who had experienced God’s salvation too many times to count. They cried out that there was no salvation for David in God and he silenced them by declaring that salvation is found nowhere else. Salvation belongs to God and He has promised to bless His people. David was one of His people. Absalom and his fellow conspirators were as dogs without teeth. They made loud and boastful noises but were powerless to destroy David. After all, how do you destroy the one who has God as his Protector, Encourager, Deliverer, Sustainer, Confidence, Victory, and Salvation?

Has God become *our* everything?

AL

Sermons: (AM) Who is this man?

(PM) Salt and light

Reading: (AM) John 20:19-31

(PM) John 21:1-14