

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 34

September 1, 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:

Troy's uncle, **Lenny Shepperson**, has cancer and is not doing well. **Lisa Tudor** (friend of Gina Seabolt) is dealing with medical complications of a serious nature.

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

Others: 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, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Vernon Johnson, Lavon Speer, Whitney Wright, Jacob Profit, Robin Miller

WEEKLY READING

Mon 1 Kings 12, 2 Chronicles 10-11, Titus 1

Tue 1 Kings 13-14, 2 Chronicles 12, Titus 2, Psalm 47

Wed 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 13-14, Titus 3

Thu 2 Chronicles 15-16, 1 Kings 16, Philemon

Fri 1 Kings 17-18, Jude, Psalm 119

LEADERSHIP

ELDERS
Garry Banks
David Collins
John Thompson

DEACONS
Troy Antle
Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

EVANGELIST
Adam Litmer

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM

1st Fri. of Month
Singing: 7:30 PM

3rd Fri. of Month
Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(Finished for the time being)

Considering Evil

Steve Deaton

The Greek word is Poneros.

Vine and Thayer say of it, "*labour,*

toil, denotes evil that causes labour, pain, sorrow, malignant evil" (Vine). "1. *Full of labors, annoyances, hardships...* 2. *Bad, of a bad nature or condition...in an ethical sense, evil, wicked, bad*" (Thayer).

Wherever there is evil, there is pain and sorrow. Though the one perpetrating the wickedness may be rejoicing, others are not. And, truth be told, the sinner is often in the quiet and isolated times filled with pain. It makes sense then that we strive to avoid evil.

Evil ultimately is the work of the devil. He is described in the Bible as the "wicked one," poneros (Matt. 13:19). He is the one that tempted the first couple and continues to do so today. Satan's goal is to bring hardship, pain, and sorrow on God's creation, namely man.

The way the devil gets to us is through the heart (Heb. 3:12). It is out of the heart that wickedness comes, "*murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies*" (Matt. 15:19). It is manifest in three basic ways; thoughts (Matt. 9:4), words (Matt. 5:11), and deeds (Jn. 3:19). When any of these is in our life, we are condemned before God.

What makes something evil? Take the example of Israel offering insufficient sacrifices to God. In Malachi 1:8, God told the people their sacrifices were "evil" because they did not offer what He commanded. They were the right people, doing the right thing, at the right place, and at the right time. The only

David Lanius will be preaching during our Fall meeting October 13-18. It's never too early to start making plans to attend!

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thing that differed, as far as noted in the account, was they did not offer the right type of animals. The people departed from God's word. That's what made their actions evil.

When our thoughts, words, or deeds transgress the Gospel of Christ, they are evil. This can be so even though we think we are doing something acceptable. Jesus told the parable of the talents of money to give us an idea about the judgment (Matt. 25:14-30). The one-talent servant explained his action of burying the talent in terms of faithfully serving his master (Matt. 25:24, 25). His master had another view of it. He said, "*You wicked (poneros) and lazy servant...*" (Matt. 25:26). This servant was cast "*into outer darkness.*" Our thoughts, words, and deeds need to adhere to the law of Christ lest we be cast into outer darkness.

God commands us to "*abhor evil*" (Rom. 12:9). We should not find pleasure in it, laugh at it or with it, condone it, embrace it, or get comfortable with it. Wickedness ought to disgust us.

God has given us the ability to combat evil: His armor (Eph. 6:10-18). When we put it on, we can withstand the "*evil day*" and "*quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one*" (Eph. 6:13, 16). As we utilize the armor given by God, including His word, we will gain strength to resist sin and develop an attitude of abhorrence toward it.

Lack of Daily-Bible Reading Among Churchgoers

Steve Deaton

A recent study found that most people who attend church services do not read their Bible on a daily basis. About 34 percent read their Bible daily or a few times per week, while a combined 66 percent read it once per week, a few times per month, once a month, or even less. The troubling thing is that this can also be true of members of the church. Those of us who claim to faithfully follow New-Testament teaching must be better when it comes to consistent study of God's word.

The Bible emphasizes again and again the importance of knowing God's will, which only comes through His Word (Eph. 3:3, 4; 5:17; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15; etc.). The gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The truth sets us free (Jn. 8:32). Jesus commanded the apostles to make disciples and "*teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you*" (Matt. 28:20). This is not accomplished by two or three group studies per week. We are in a daily battle for our souls and must daily arm ourselves against the onslaught of the devil — as he attacks our minds.

The survey found 90 percent of churchgoers agree "I desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do," and 59 percent agree with the statement: "Throughout the day I find myself thinking about biblical truths." While the majority agree with both statements, there is a significant difference in the strength of agreement. Nearly two-thirds of churchgoers (64 percent) strongly agree with the first statement, but only 20 percent with the second. In other words, there is a huge disconnect between what people know is right and what they do. Jesus said the difference between the wise and foolish men was one did, the other did not (Matt. 7:24-27). Hence, James admonished, "*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*" (Jas. 1:22).

Regarding Bible study, let us not deceive ourselves by thinking that consistent, regular study is good, but *not* doing it is acceptable. Let us not be satisfied with acknowledging what is good and right, but fail to do it. If we would be saved and reach others, we *must* dig into the Word!

Sermons: (AM) A Savior is born! (PM) What does James say about prayer?

Reading: (AM) Proverbs 10:18-32 (PM) Proverbs 11:1-18