

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 41

October 13, 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:

Maureen Sheldon's cancer is too far advanced for the doctor's to treat her. **Leroy Weatherholt** (James' Weatherholt's grandfather) has stage 3 lung cancer. He will be operated on soon, though the date is not yet known.

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

Others: Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Vernon Johnson, Lavon Speer, Jacob Profit, Robin Miller, Lisa Tudor

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon	Isaiah 7-10, Matthew 26, Psalm 22	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u> Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Tue	Isaiah 11-13, Matthew 27, Psalm 118	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Wed	Isaiah 14-16, Matthew 28	David Collins	Richard Brundige	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u> Singing: 7:30 PM
Thu	Isaiah 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1, Psalm 62	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u> Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Finished for the time being)
Fri	Isaiah 20-22, 1 Corinthians 2		Adam Litmer	
		<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	
			Jim Parsons	
			Pat Seabolt	
			Adam Daniels	
			Jamie Powell	

Being Spiritually Fully Clothed

This year was no different. As it has for innumerable spring and summer seasons past, warm weather, once again, signaled the all clear for the removal of clothing. Hopefully, each one of us did not conform to the world by undressing ourselves in public to the point of immodesty.

The men's class on preparing sermons and short talks begins next Sunday at 5. The material is in the back. All men are encouraged to attend.

But, did you know that it is entirely possible for a Christian to be properly clothed physically and yet not be fully clothed spiritually? Clothing performs two functions. First, it covers and protects the body. Second, clothing increases one's visibility. Spiritual clothing functions in the same two ways for the Christian. Examination of a few selected scriptures will show this to be true.

In chapter 5 of 1 Peter, the Apostle describes the relationship between elders and the flock over which they rule. The latter part of verse 5 gives the attitude which allows that relationship to prevail and thrive. Peter says, "*clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another....*" To be fully clothed spiritually, the Christian must be clothed in humility. When the Christian acts without humility it can be equated with the removal of a portion of one's physical clothing thus exposing some degree of nakedness. Humility covers and protects the Christian, and without it he or she is vulnerable to Satan's appeal to our vanity and pride. Humility is an identifying characteristic of the Christian, and without it he or she loses the ability to be visible to others as a child of God. A Christian can be bundled from head to toe in physical clothing, but be in a sorry state of undress spiritually without humility.

Colossians 3:12-14 describes an entire spiritual wardrobe that God expects the Christian to put on. "*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must*

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forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Every time we act contrary to those qualities stated above we have removed part of our spiritual clothing. Satan, via the predominant world view, says to keep taking off one’s clothing, both spiritually and physically. But God says to keep putting on godly qualities, and, once having put them on, keep them on. When we are not compassionate or kind or meek; when we act impatiently; when we are unforgiving and unloving, we have undressed ourselves spiritually speaking and we stand defenseless before Satan and condemned before God until we seek His forgiveness and fully clothe ourselves once again.

The idea of defenselessness is echoed in Ephesians 6:11-15. *“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.”* To be fully clothed spiritually is to be fully armed.

There is no shame in being well and fully dressed physically. There is eternal glory awaiting the Christian who remains well and fully dressed spiritually.
The Elders

“The More You Know”

One of the television networks, I think it’s NBC, often runs a commercial during its programming in which various actors from its shows will offer a short message, almost a public service announcement, in an effort to make their viewers aware of ways in which they can better serve the environment, their community, and their family. At the end of each commercial the actor finishes by saying, “The more you know.” The point is that the more you know the better you are, particularly if the object of the knowledge can benefit others. It’s a wholesome message even if all of the programming is not.

A couple of days ago I watched one of those commercials and it got me to thinking about some things. In the midst of our Lord’s period of temptation in the wilderness, something I intend to explore with you in detail following this week’s

meeting, we find these words from Satan to Jesus in Luke 4:5-7. *“And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth in a moment of time, and said to him, ‘To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I will give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’”*

There is so much we could say about Satan’s words, but for the purpose of this article we will consider only that Satan caused all of the kingdoms of the earth to pass before our Lord’s eyes “in a moment of time.” I find that very interesting. Why not give our Lord a slow, in depth, panoramic view of each kingdom? Why not show Jesus the splendor of all the great cities belonging to each kingdom? Why not encourage our Lord to walk their streets and admire their glory? I cannot answer this for certain but I do feel comfortable offering one suggestion. Perhaps Satan knew that a longer look would have shown that they were worth so little. Perhaps he recognized that theirs was the glory of tinsel, not gold (1 John 2:17a). Of course, Jesus already knew this.

Friends, the more we come to know each other and the world around us the more flaws we discover. This certainly should not cause us to love one another less, but to recognize that imperfection permeates every aspect of this world, including us. This would be very depressing if there were no exception to the rule. There is. His name is Jesus Christ. You see, the more we come to know Jesus the greater the wonder becomes. Friends, this will be true not only in the midst of this flawed and imperfect world but also in the perfection of eternity.

With so many interests in this life it’s always good to be reminded of the need to keep Jesus Christ at the center. Length of life and number of experiences causes our knowledge of this world and its inhabitants to increase. We see how the world operates, how it thinks, how it influences, and what it desires. More than anything we see its weaknesses and flaws. Let that recognition motivate us to want to learn more about our flawless Christ.

The more you know! AL

Sermons: (AM) Reverence For God
(PM) No Fear Of God

Reading: (AM) Proverbs 16:17-33
(PM) Proverbs 17:1-14