

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 44

November 3, 2013

## GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS

### List:

**Leroy Weatherholt** has been able to return to his home. Expect an update on his status today.

**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, Maureen Sheldon, Valarie Boyd, Barry Boyd

### WEEKLY READING

**Mon** Isaiah 45-48, 1 Corinthians 13  
**Tue** Isaiah 49-52, 1 Corinthians 14, Psalm 69  
**Wed** Isaiah 53-55, 1 Corinthians 15, Psalm 128  
**Thu** Isaiah 56-59, 1 Corinthians 16, Psalm 70  
**Fri** Isaiah 60-63, 2 Corinthians 1

### LEADERSHIP

<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	<b><u>DEACONS</u></b>
Garry Banks	Troy Antle
David Collins	Richard Brundige
John Thompson	Matt Thompson
	Adam Litmer
<b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b>	Bill Morelan
Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons
	Pat Seabolt
	Adam Daniels
	Jamie Powell

### 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)

### **Driven by Discontent**

On a moment-to-moment basis, how much of your life, that is the things you desire, that which you think about or talk about, the things you spend your time and energy going after or working towards; how much of all of the above is driven by discontent? Perhaps you have never considered the possibility that discontent is in the driver's seat of your life. Perhaps you have never fully recognized the eternal consequences of being controlled by want, by desire, by a "need" that is more perceived than real. Perhaps you have never understood that discontent and addiction go hand-in-hand or connected discontent with sin. Let's explore some of these thoughts in this article.

*"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."*  
 Psalm 119:57

We are pretty happy people, aren't we? But how much of our happiness and joy is connected with acquiring the latest electronic gadget? How much time at work do we spend desiring a raise in pay or position? To what degree do we notice what our neighbors or other family members have? God does not expect us to be miserly and totally self-deprived, but He also does not want us to be miserable if we desire and cannot have. *"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."* (James 1:14-15)

It doesn't take long for a desire to take over one's life. "I want" soon becomes "I need" which in turn quickly assumes command with "I must have!" Discontent may begin as a minor force in our lives, but can quite rapidly become exceedingly powerful driving us to all kinds of sin. In fact, there is not a sin that can be committed, which is not fueled by discontent: greed, theft, idolatry, rebellion, envy, bitterness, gossip, contentions, covetousness, murder, slander, fornication, adultery, etc., etc. All of those sins and so many others are driven by discontent.

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, the evangelist, did not hesitate to caution Timothy about the dangers of being discontented. *“Teach and urge these things. If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain.”* ( 1 Timothy 6:2-6)

The message of being discontent is unmistakable in the above scripture. One only teaches a doctrine different from the gospel because he is discontented with the true gospel. He does not just have a big ego, he is puffed up with it. He has become distorted with it and unable to understand anything. He is not himself any longer. He craves controversy, so much so, that it has reached addictive levels. He no longer controls himself but is driven by discontentment.

But we do not have to be driven by discontentment for Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11, *“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”* The Elders

### **Mind Your Manner**

Those of you who watch sports or listen to sports talk on your radio have likely heard something about a former NFL player’s vicious attack upon his former employers. He is angry about what he perceives to be the NFL’s unfair and hurtful treatment of its players over a wide spectrum of issues. Each of his complaints and indictments was sent via Twitter. From what I understand many of the arguments he makes are very valid and truly worthy of discussion. So why isn’t anyone actually discussing them? Because he began each of his tweets with a capitalized expletive while sprinkling manner more throughout each tweet. Now the only thing receiving any attention is the atrocious attitude and manner of the disgruntled former player.

Is it not interesting how the force of one’s argument or the validity of his points can quickly become of secondary importance, or of no importance at all, based upon the way he conducts himself when making them? As I heard of the former players profanity laced tirade three verses from Proverbs came to my mind. *“A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls”*

(25:28), *“A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back”* (29:11), *“If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet”* (29:9). It is the fool, not the wise man, who feels the need for regular “venting.” It is the fool, not the wise man, who must rage and “get it all out.” Indeed, calmness of spirit is one of the defining characteristics of the wise.

As I think about this situation I cannot help but recall conversations Christians have been engaged in with each other and those who have not put on Christ. I must confess that I am sometimes dumbfounded by the manner in which Christians speak, particularly when involved in a spiritual discussion. This is especially true over social media sites (Facebook, etc). How incongruous for a Christian who brazenly questions a person’s intelligence, honesty, motives, and spirituality to conclude by saying, “I love you and just want what’s best for you.”

Friends, far too many conversations between Christians and those who desperately need to be led to the truth and away from error end badly because the *Christian* behaved in a very unchristian manner throughout the discussion. When someone disagrees with us it is not necessarily because they are dishonest, unintelligent, selfish, unloving, and unspiritual. It could be that they are honestly mistaken and need someone to help guide them in a loving, compassionate manner. It could even be that *we* are wrong and need to be taught the truth more correctly from Scripture. Either way, it is next to impossible to get someone to seriously consider the truthfulness of one’s words when the manner in which they are spoken is insulting, condescending, and just plain mean.

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person”* (Colossians 4:6). Paul’s statement encompasses not just our words, but the manner in which they are spoken. Let’s make sure we are minding our manner. AL

**Sermons:** (AM) The Power of God’s Grace

(PM) The Third Temptation of Christ (Luke 4:9-13)

**Reading:** (AM) Proverbs 19:1-14

(PM) Proverbs 19:15-29