

**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:**

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

**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, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Vernon Johnson, Lavon Speer, Jacob Profit, Lisa Tudor, Maureen Sheldon, Valarie Boyd, Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Tony Tyree, Wesley Sizemore,

<b><u>WEEKLY READING</u></b>		<b><u>LEADERSHIP</u></b>		<b><u>SERVICES</u></b>
<b>Mon</b>	31-33; John 11	<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	<b><u>DEACONS</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday</u></b>
<b>Tue</b>	Ezekiel 34-36, John 12, Psalm 86	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
<b>Wed</b>	Ezekiel 37-39, John 13, Psalm 87	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<b>Thu</b>	Ezekiel 40-42, John 14	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>
<b>Fri</b>	Ezekiel 43-45, John 15, Psalm 135		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		<b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b>	Bill Morelan	<b><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></b>
		Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<b><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></b>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**University Heights Messenger**

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**For Not Even His Brothers  
Believed...**

At a Feast of Booths during our Lord’s ministry He hesitated attending it due to the Jews plans to kill Him. It was not yet His time to die and there was still work He needed to accomplish before the crucifixion. John 7 deals with this and contains a statement about His brothers. Verse 5 says, “*For not even his brothers believed in him.*” His brothers, did not believe that He was the Messiah. It must have pained Jesus deeply that those who had grown up with Him and shared many intimate moments with Him refused to accept the evidence and believe.

Most of us have family members, some of them very close to us, who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Others claim to believe but live their lives as if they didn’t. In 1 Peter 4:3-5 Peter says, “*For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*”

It is not easy for a Christian to observe dear relatives engaging in sinful activity. Indeed, it hurts our hearts to the very core. It is even harder when those family members can recall the days when we engaged in many of those activities with them. When we stop they do not always understand and, because the very life of a saint speaks judgment against ungodliness, they are often made resentful at our change. Countless Christians have been on the receiving end of hurtful comments made by family members who view them as suddenly putting on airs, acting as though they are better than everyone else in the family because they now refuse to do what they often did not long ago. Such stinging

*“But they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”*  
2 Peter 3:18a

comments certainly do not make us love them any less, but they do add to what is already a painful situation.

Peter's sobering statement from verse 5, "*but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead,*" is distressing to those of us with ungodly family members we love dearly. It often seems as though we cannot even begin to reach them; that we are the last person in the world they seem willing to discuss these things with. In truth, we often *are* the last person they will hear on these matters. They've seen all our warts, know all our flaws, and have seen us slip up (or heard about it) throughout all our lives. Even Jesus Himself, who never sinned a single time, faced the stubbornness and contempt that is often closely associated with great familiarity. In Luke 4 we find Jesus at Nazareth, surrounded by those who had watched Him grow into manhood, exclaiming, "*Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.*"

Fair or foul, it is often very difficult to be the one to reach those closest to us with the message of salvation. However, let us not assume that because they refuse to hear us that they will refuse to hear all. They know that *something* has changed us. They may be hurt, confused, or even angered by the change; but they are almost always curious as well. Perhaps they will be willing to discuss these matters with someone besides us? A fire is often lit within someone's heart the very first time they *seriously* hear the gospel message. How wonderful if we can eventually receive them as brothers or sisters in Christ! AL

### **Paving The Way For Innovators**

Earl Kimbrough

Some of the innovations that have gained acceptance among the people of God in the past one hundred and fifty years, did so because there was serious vacuum in carrying out some aspect of the church's work. Missionary cooperatives arose due to the negligence of local churches in supporting preachers in evangelizing new fields. The one man "pastor system" was urged as a remedy for incompetent elders, with which many mid-nineteenth century congregations were saddled. D.S. Burnett was an early advocate of this system for that very reason. Instrumental music was introduced as an aid to atrocious signing among the church in the earlier times.

It is difficult for us today, who are generally accustomed to good singing, to imagine how bad things were in some churches. Benjamin Franklin, in an early

edition of the **Reformer**, preserved a window through which we may view the singing as it was frequently carried on in those days. He wrote: "It is lamentable to see the negligence of the brethren in cultivating their talent for singing. It might be truly said that if all the delinquencies which have obtained among religious people this one is transcendent. How much might be said here without exaggeration? Reader, have you not seen large congregations that could not sing one hymn without a book, and could scarcely do it with one?"

The invitation song, according to Franklin, all too often went like this: "...after waiting some time, a brother very deliberately draws the case out of his pocket, takes out his spectacles, adjusts them properly to his eyes, looks around and inquires of several others for a hymn book. Presently one is produced, he looks at the index, announces the page, tunes his voice, and finally commences...Finally the singing is murdered through, and all seem glad the task is performed." (**The Life and Times of Elder Benjamin Franklin**, p. 89.)

In the last years of his life, after the instrument had obtained favor among the churches, Franklin expressed profound regret that more attention had not been given to the importance of singing in worship. He was of the opinion that singing, such as described above, was as destitute of true devotion as singing with an instrument. This deplorable state of affairs, especially among the less careful Bible students and the more worldly-minded members of the church, contributed no little to the ready acceptance of the organ in many places across the land.

We today may not be neglecting the singing in worship, but are we neglecting some other aspect of our service to God? Are we, even now, playing into the hand of innovators and helping pave the way for their success in the years ahead, by showing improper concern for a particular part of our responsibility as the people of God? We must constantly strive to be diligent in all our service to God, both in our attitudes and in the performance of our duties, to the end that we do all that He requires of us, in the way He instructs us, and to the best of our ability. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

**Sermons:** (AM) "Seek to show hospitality"

(PM) The benefits of Bible study--1

**Reading:** (AM) Proverbs 27:1-14

(PM) Proverbs 27:15-27