

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:

New: Hope Vinagradov is continuing to discuss treatment options with her doctors. **Arlena Poynter** is scheduled for gull bladder surgery towards the end of this month.

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

Others: Jan Hogen, Barbara 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, Lavon Speer, Jacob Profit, Maureen Sheldon, Valarie Boyd, Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Tony Tyree, Wesley Sizemore

WEEKLY READING

Mon	Job 28-30, Revelation 18
Tue	Job 31-33, Revelation 19, Psalm 102
Wed	Job 34-36, Revelation 20
Thu	Job 37-39, Revelation 21, Psalm 103
Fri	Job 40-42, Revelation 22, Psalm 150

LEADERSHIP

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Garry Banks	Troy Antle
David Collins	Richard Brundige
John Thompson	Matt Thompson

<u>EVANGELIST</u>
Adam Litmer

SERVICES

<u>Sunday</u>
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
<u>Wednesday</u>
Bible Study: 7:30 PM
<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
Singing: 7:30 PM
<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Finished for the time being)

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Who Is Your Majesty?

Imagine a tape measure running from earth to heaven and suppose you had the opportunity to determine where along that measuring device each person and each class of persons and perhaps even each nation of people should be relative to one another. In other words, you could determine how important you considered everyone else in the world.

Who would be placed the lowest? Would it be some ethnic group? Or perhaps the people of a particular national origin would have the dishonor of being the lowest on your tape measure. Would the occupant of that lowly position be your next-door neighbor, your boss, the person who just cut you off in traffic? Is today's low man on the totem pole the same one you placed there yesterday? Someone has to be in that position. Who would it be?

How about those upper positions? Who do you place in those spots? Is it some movie star, or some popular entertainer that appeals to you? Or perhaps it is some politician or head of state. You know, we reserve special terms for those who are accepted as being over and above the rest of us. For example, were we in a position to address Queen Elizabeth, who among us would not use the term, "Your Majesty" or "Your Highness"? Were we to be in the presence of some military general, who was the leader of his country, we would, no doubt, not hesitate to call him, "Your Excellency." Millions of Catholics relish the privilege of calling the Pope "Holy Father", or "Your Holiness." Millions more call their clergy people "Reverend."

Just how high up that tape measure do people place those who they call by such lofty titles? Are those who are so highly regarded and admired measured all of the way into heaven itself? Surely not! But if that be so, then why are they addressed in such language the Bible uses with respect to God? Please consider well the following passages of scripture.

"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."

Romans 5:20

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*"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: **holy and reverend is his name.**"* (Psalm 111:9)

*"Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.¹¹ **Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty:** for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.¹² Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."* (1 Chronicles 29:10-12)

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; **thou art clothed with honor and majesty.**"* (Psalm 104:1)

*"And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, **the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth.**"* (Genesis 14:22)

Let us not be hasty to determine the relative value of others, or to accept the value assigned to them by society at large. And let us be even less hasty to assume that we have the right to make those kinds of determinations. When we place others on an equal par with God Himself we actually demean the God of Heaven and Earth and place mere humans in the very highest positions possible. And when we believe we somehow have the right to do that, we actually place ourselves in the absolute highest position. We actually become God in our own minds. God forbid! The Elders

Be Not Overcome With Shame

Romans 6:20-21 says, *"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death."* Many years ago I remember a Christian coming to the house late at night to speak to dad. He was in tears when he came to the house, devastated and ashamed that he had given in to a particular temptation. Over the years I have seen many Christians in similar situations. Indeed, what Christian among us has *not* felt great shame at having committed an individual sin or even a series of them?

Shame at sin is good and something all Christians should feel. After all, Christ died so that we could be freed from bondage to sin and inherit salvation. Christians do not *live* in sin (Romans 6:15-18) so none of us should ever maintain a

nonchalant attitude toward it. Paul reminds us that godly sorrow (of which shame is part—see Psalm 51) leads one to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10).

However, sometimes Christians have been so overwhelmed by shame that they convinced themselves that God could not forgive them for what they'd done. I have heard Christians state that they no longer felt they could do "enough" to make up for the sins they had committed, that God could not be convinced to forgive them. Herein lies a sad misunderstanding of God's grace. None of us, not even the most godly and righteous, can do *enough* to earn God's forgiveness. What does "enough" mean? Who determines when "enough" has been achieved? Paul said, *"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased grace abounded all the more"* (Romans 5:20). The wonderful teaching of this verse is that the greater the need for God's grace, the greater the supply becomes! We can't do *enough* to earn God's grace, but because it *is* grace we don't have to! Remember, *"if it is the adherents of the law (those relying solely on their own ability to achieve salvation--AL) who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise void"* (Romans 4:14). To walk by faith is to recognize that one's own ability can never save him but only God's grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8).

All of this means that God does not require absolute perfection on our part (if it did who among us could ever be saved?), but a life lived in Christ. This life is no mystical, indefinable thing. It is the life of one who has "*become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed*" (Romans 6:17). This means that one's practice is to *walk* in the light (1 John 1:7). They are not perfect but they are quick to repent of sins knowing that they will be forgiven because God's grace is strong enough to forgive any sin (Romans 5:20) and has promised to do so (1 John 1:9)!

So by all means, let us feel shame at sin. There's a problem if we don't! But let us always remember that we will not be saved on the basis of our own goodness and ability, but the grace of God as our lives continue to be those of faith. Praise God for that! Adam Litmer

Sermons: (AM) The urgency of the Christian life
(PM) "God's fellow workers"

Reading: (AM) Psalm 5
(PM) Psalm 6