

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: **Casey Sparrow** (friend of Garry Banks) has recently been diagnosed with stage four cancer.

Our members: Sharon Tirey, Arlena Poynter, Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd

Others: Hope Vinogradov, 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, Norma Hurt, Lavon Speer, Jacob Profit, Valarie Boyd, Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Tony Tyree, Wilma Lawson, Janett Brundige's mother, the Fred Dalton (Adam Daniel's uncle) family

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon Genesis 41-42, Mark 16	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	Sunday
Tue Genesis 43-44, Galatians 1, Psalm 24	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed Genesis 45-46, Galatians 2, Psalm 108	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu Genesis 47-48, Galatians 3, Psalm 25	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri Genesis 49-50, Galatians 4		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
	<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
		Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
		Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
		Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257 – www.uheightschurch.com

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Tabitha: A Woman Who Did Not Brag, Boast, or Vaunt Herself

Were you to pay a visit to Tabitha's house you would have little trouble locating her. Other than the normal activities of daily living, such as eating, sleeping, and household chores, you would probably find her doing one of two things. Either she was dwelling upon spiritual matters, for she is called a disciple, or her hands and fingers were moving at industry-like speed cutting fabric and sewing the pieces together to make the tunics and other garments that so impressed those who mourned her death. Tabitha was, indeed, *full of good works and acts of charity.* (Acts 9:36) And so, there she would be in her usual place of study and prayer or her usual place of industry. There you would find her were you to visit.

But how would you have known her if you were not a friend or family member? The answer seems obvious: you would have heard about her by word of mouth. Perhaps you had received one of the tunics she had made; perhaps an acquaintance of yours had been given one of the garments her busy hands had fashioned; perhaps you simply overheard others proclaiming her goodness as you walked through the streets of Joppa. There are any number of ways Tabitha could have become known to you, but one means would not be on that list. You may have heard about her by word of mouth, but not by word of her own mouth.

Tabitha was much too busy doing good works and being charitable. She had no time to be out in public bragging about her work and vaunting herself. You would not observe her strolling along with a companion or two, then suddenly halting her conversation to proclaim, "Look, there goes one of my tunics now. I spent a lot of time on that one and I hope it will be well taken care of." You would not see Tabitha turning to her companions with an air of expectancy that they respond with praise for her workmanship. Where you would find her is at home in her workshop busily preparing the next garment.

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God."
2 Corinthians 3:5

Peter could already have heard about Tabitha. It is difficult to determine from the account in Acts 9 how well acquainted he was with her and her good works. However, whether or not he knew her before he was asked to come to Joppa is not all that important. He certainly knew her reputation once he arrived at her house. Upon his arrival what did he find? The Bible says nothing about him passing a showcase of trophies or a wall covered with certificates. What he found was a group of widows in mourning who obviously loved Tabitha deeply. They were the ones who proclaimed Tabitha's goodness and charity.

There is a lesson for us in Tabitha's example as we reflect upon the following scriptures:

Matthew 6:1-4 *"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."*

Jeremiah 9:23 *"Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,"* [applying the principle contained in this verse, we understand that one ought not to boast in his good deeds.]

Matthew 5:15-17 *"Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Let our deeds of goodness be extolled through the mouths of others, not through our own. We can be just like Tabitha even though we can only visit her through the scriptures. The Elders

From The Blog... Get out of God's way!

We've all been there before. It could be at work, the mall, or even across the fence from our own backyard. A lost soul is standing off by itself. We know that we could approach that person and speak to them about our Lord. We know we *should*. Perhaps we've even got a card from our church with an invitation printed out in bold, bright letters. All we've got to do is walk over and make the contact. Our feet are itching to start walking, words are forming on the tip of our tongue, and just before we

make the approach that voice inside our head reminds us of our uncertainty, our fear, and our nervousness. Suddenly all we can think about is why we *can't* approach that person. They eventually walk away and we're left feeling ashamed and embarrassed.

Have you ever noticed that such failures are *always* the result of self-centered thinking? *I* get nervous. *I* get tongue-tied. *I* get uncomfortable. "I, I, I, ME, ME, ME!" How very selfish of us!

At such times we need to train ourselves to focus *less* on self and *more* on God. Rather than fretting over our own timidity, let us reflect on God's goals. Rather than submitting to our own insecurities, let us submit to God's will. Rather than relying upon our own ability, let us glory in God's power. We need not preach a sermon where a simple invitation will suffice. Philip's simple, "*Come and see*" works just as well today on a truth seeking heart as it did then (John 1:46).

Do you feel insufficient to serve as God's fellow worker (1 Corinthians 3:9) in spreading the gospel message? Me too! Even the apostle Paul knew he was not sufficient in and of himself (2 Corinthians 2:16b). Yet Paul knew that his sufficiency came from God (2 Corinthians 3:5) and thus he was imminently qualified to serve as God's spokesmen. The Christians sufficiency comes from the same Source. Our God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20) and we must never forget it.

Perhaps that lost soul will come across another Christian who will make the contact. Why should they have to? Let us resolve to focus more upon God than ourselves. "I, I, I" must become "Him, Him, Him." Let's stand at His side and not in His way! Adam Litmer

Sermons: (AM) Getting out of our gardens
(PM) Blake Ratliff will be preaching

Reading: (AM) Psalm 13
(PM) Psalm 14

The Blog: Think On These Things (When need becomes greater than pride)
Pursuing Parables (Thoughts on the parable of the Sower—1)
From the Psalms (Equally applying God's law—Psalm 7:3-5)
Q and A