

University Heights Messenger

Volume 3--Number 15

September 25, 2011

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 10:19)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Recent Additions:

Ciara McCrary is scheduled to have her eye surgery soon. I will pass along more information as I receive it.

The Marksberry's continue to recover from a plane crash. Mr. Marksberry appears to have a longer way to go.

Standing List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin

Others: Edith Tirey, Glen Davis, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein

Reminder: If you wish to have someone added to the prayer list please submit his or her name and condition to me *in writing*. Thanks.

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Job 20-21, Ps 52, Luke 16
Mon: Job 22-23, Ps 53, Luke 17
Tue: Job 24-26, Ps 54, Luke 18
Wed: Job 27-28, Ps 55, Luke 19
Thu: Job 29-30, Ps 56, Luke 20
Fri: Job 31-32, Ps 57, Luke 21
Sat: Job 33-34, Ps 58, Luke 22

LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

Garry Banks
David Collins
John Thompson

DEACONS

Troy Antle
Richard Brundige
Neal Erickson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Matt Thompson

EVANGELIST

Adam Litmer

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

Devotional: 7:00 PM
(Ask for location)

There's A Lesson Here...

Sarah couldn't wait. And Abraham was getting anxious. God had promised Abraham offspring, so many offspring that they would be as the stars of heaven, a great and mighty nation. However, apparently it just wasn't happening as Abraham had envisioned it. And so, in Genesis 15:3, he says to God, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." God reminded him that Eliezer of Damascus would not be his heir. His heir would be his own son. Sometime later, Sarah, being barren, tried to help God's plan along by giving her servant, Hagar, to Abraham. But Ishmael, the son born to Abraham and Hagar, was not to be the child of promise either. Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born. Thirteen years later, when Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89, God fulfilled his promise. Sarah conceived and the following year Isaac was born, just as God had planned so many years ago when he brought Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldeans.

People, generally speaking, don't like to wait for good things to happen. Just say to someone, "I have a surprise for you," and he will invariably eagerly respond, "What is it?" The more that you don't tell, the more he insistently wants to know. The difficulty in waiting is characteristic of immaturity, typical of children. But it also has elements of mistrust and lack of faith. Even though the Bible says that Abraham believed God's promises, that belief and trust only seemed to work for a period of time. Then, Abraham would begin to doubt. Both he and Sarah attempted to take matters into their own hands.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14) What is the connection between waiting for the Lord and strength and courage? One part of that connection is trust, absolute trust in the God of heaven and earth. Such absolute trust gives strength. There is no weakness in total trust. It gives courage to face and overcome whatever difficulties come along. Trust in God emboldens one even in the midst of the direst circumstances. "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28) A second part of that connection is hope, a confident expectation of the fulfillment of God's great and precious promises in his own good time.

GOSPEL MEETING

September 25th – 30th

9:45 AM; 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM Sunday

7:30 PM Monday-Friday

Albert Dickson

Cincinnati, OH

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

King David was a man beset by the very kinds of dire circumstances that result in so many people giving up on God and ultimately rejecting him. Yet David had no lasting doubts about the value of waiting upon the Lord, as he so frequently and beautifully expressed in the Psalms.

Psalms 25:3-5 “Let none that wait on You be ashamed....Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me: for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all day.”

Psalms 31:24 “Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who wait for the Lord.”

Psalms 37:7, 9 “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him... Those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.”

Psalms 62:5-6 “My soul, wait silently for God alone; my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation.”

Psalms 130:5-6 “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning - yes, more than they that watch for the morning.”

Consider also what the prophet Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 40:31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 49:23 “You will know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for Me.”

There’s a lesson here. Just wait upon the Lord, trusting him to fulfill his promises in his own good time and we will be encouraged and confident in our hope. The Elders

“The Meekness Of Wisdom”

“*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*” James 3:13

God does not view wisdom the way man tends to view it. He never has. We worship just across the street from some of the “wisest” people around, at least as the world would define it. There are people on the neighboring campus able to speak of astrophysics as if it were little more than a simple 1+1 equation. There are those on the neighboring campus who can incorporate Shakespearean language in all its beauty into their daily speech as if they and the bard had written his masterpieces together. There are those on the neighboring campus who are creating new business models that will eventually net them a small fortune. There are those on the neighboring campus doing things with computers the mere telling of which causes my head to spin. Yes, much “wisdom” exists just across the road.

Or does it? In Proverbs 1:7 we read, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” How much “*fear of the Lord,*” genuine respect and adoration for God, exists on the neighboring campus? Does the scientist, daily breaking new ground in his

field, work nearly so hard on the state of his soul? Does the Shakespearean scholar spend nearly the same amount of time with the greatest Book of them all? Clearly a person can know a great many things and yet abandon the most important knowledge of all. Where is the wisdom in that?

However, James was writing to and about Christians so it is to Christians our focus must turn. Specifically we shall focus upon true wisdom and its attributes as defined by James. While he seems to especially have in mind those who feel they are qualified to teach others (3:1) there is little doubt that James extends to include all Christians in what followed (3:2-12). I believe such continues to be the case. However, those who would seek to be public teachers should take special note of verse 13.

First, wisdom is meek. Be careful to note that James did not say that wisdom *should* be meek, but that meekness is a necessary attribute, an inherent quality, of genuine wisdom. Though frowned upon from ancient times unto today, meekness is to be a defining quality of every Christian. In this context, meekness would refer to wisdom that is void of any aspirations for acclaim, recognition, arrogance, or pride. When one considers that knowledge comes from God and what He has revealed in His Word, that diligent study of Scripture reveals on a daily basis how much more there is to learn, and that their own understandings continue to change as they continue to become more familiar with God’s Word, humility should be ever increasing within them. The reason this would not be true is explained by James in 3:14-16. May our God grant us the wisdom to avoid such a deadly group!

Second, note that wisdom is demonstrated in deeds. There is a tendency among us to believe that genuine wisdom is demonstrated in one’s touching eloquence and masterful argumentation. The inspired writer says that genuine wisdom is something demonstrated in good deeds. In other words, let us not *tell* people that we are wise and understanding, let us *show* them by doing the good works we were created in Christ Jesus to do (Ephesians 2:10). To say that the wise person *should* do good works is to misunderstand biblical teaching. Genuine wisdom and good works are not mutually exclusive. If a person possesses the wisdom James is describing they also live a life of good and godly deeds for the two cannot be separated. If the deeds are not there, neither is the wisdom.

I find James 3:13 to be both challenging and humbling. It is challenging because we live in a society that could not disagree more with the inspired writer’s description of genuine wisdom. Without constant care we can be influenced to disagree with it as well, at least in practice. It is humbling because I must admit that I have failed on more than one occasion to live up to the lofty expectations of this verse. James went on to say “*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*” Let us pursue such heavenly wisdom! AL