

University Heights Messenger

Volume 3--Number 23

November 20, 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 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Recent Additions:

Taylor Osterling (surgery in new year), **Wayde Miller** (started physical therapy Monday)

Bennie and Arlena Poynter (Bennie has mono and Arlena has a sinus infection), **Jackie Litmer** (She is having a mass removed and biopsied on Tuesday), **CJ Nash** (the extremely premature baby of Brian and Alyse Nash)

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Bennie Poynter

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, Michael Poynter

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: Jer 2-3, Ps 104, Rom 1
Mon: Jer 4-5, Ps 105:1-25, Rom 2
Tue: Jer 6-7, Ps 105:26-45, Rom 3-4
Wed: Jer 8-9, Ps 106:1-23, Rom 5-6
Thu: Jer 10-12, Ps 106:24-48, Rom 7
Fri: Jer 13-14, Ps 107:1-22, Rom 8
Sat: Jer 15-17, Ps 107:23-43, Rom 9-11

LEADERSHIP

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

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
(Ask for location)

There's A Lesson Here...

We all appreciate someone who has a grave sense of responsibility, don't we? He or she is on top of things. Such a one gets things done on time and done well, and it is usually evident that much attention has been paid to detail. On the other hand, one who is neglectful has little claim for our admiration. Much of what a neglectful person does appears to be a rush job. Often others have to help pick up the slack, fill in the gaps, or even do all of the work left undone by the one who is neglectful. Are you a responsible individual or a neglectful one?

Let's examine the basic meanings of the word neglect. First, it means to pay little or no attention to something, to disregard. Notice that the word disregard implies a willful or purposeful failure. In other words, the neglectful person knows what should be done, but intentionally disregards it. Secondly, to be neglectful means to fail to care for or attend to properly. If there is a job to be done, then there are proper ways to do it and improper ways. The neglectful person just doesn't get the job done in any kind of proper way, requiring someone else to come along and do the job correctly. Thirdly, neglect means to be careless and thoughtless. Careless and thoughtless are interesting words. The neglectful one simply gives **less care** and attention to detail than the job requires. He gives **less thought** and time to the job, rushing it through at the last moment just to get it done.

While neglect in our physical lives results in serious consequences, such as lack of job advancement, disrespect from others, suffering relationships, poor self-image, and a host of others, neglect in our spiritual lives is potentially disastrous. The letter to the Hebrews has a lot of advice regarding neglect. Consider the following verses.

1. **Hebrews 2:1** "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." What is it that we have heard? Verse 2 of chapter 1 says that in these latter times God has spoken to us by His Son. Christians need to be paying much closer attention to that which God has spoken through His Son.

The third Friday Bible study will be held at the Collins home.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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2. **Hebrews 2:3** *“how shall we escape if we **neglect** such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard.”* To neglect what God has spoken through His Son is to neglect the very salvation God speaks about. Salvation is the message of His Word, and to neglect His Word is to be careless and thoughtless regarding salvation.
3. **Hebrews 10:25** *“not **neglecting** to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* Notice that one can be neglectful not only with regard to being present at the designated assemblies of the church, but also by failing to encourage fellow Christians on their road to heaven.
4. **Hebrew 13:2** *“Do not **neglect** to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”* Christians can be neglectful with regard to any and all of the responsibilities God has given.
5. **Hebrews 13:16** *“Do not **neglect** to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”* In our present world, with its emphasis upon the self, it is so easy to be like the rich man of Luke 12:18 whose neglectful response to his bountiful harvest was to build bigger barns for the storage of his excess rather than to do good and share it.

Our sincere prayer is that every member of this church will be careful (full of care), thoughtful (full of thought), purposeful (full of purpose) workers in the Kingdom of the Lord. The Elders

The Feast of Tabernacles

By Greg Litmer

The Feast of Tabernacles was the last of the three great annual Jewish festivals. It was kept for seven days in the Jewish month Tishri, corresponding to September/October of our calendar. During the festival the children of Israel were to dwell in booths, or tabernacles, made of boughs of trees or branches of palm trees. This served a twofold purpose. The festival came at the close of the harvest season when all of the produce of the fields, vineyards, and olive groves would have been harvested, so it was a celebration and reminder of the agricultural life. However, it also served as a reminder of the exodus from Egypt and the wandering of the Jews in the wilderness, a time of dwelling in tents.

It is interesting that most of the neighboring pagan nations also had festivals and celebrations at the time of the harvest—many of them containing the most unholy fertility

rites and similar activities. But the Feast of Tabernacles had the idea of deliverance and so its very purpose had little resemblance to the debauchery of the pagan festivals.

The Jewish festivals focused the minds of the people upon God and upon His continual care for them and their dependence upon Him. They were to be celebrations of joy and thanksgiving.

Every day in the life of a Christian is a day of joy and thanksgiving. Does that mean that no day will be filled with pain and sorrow brought about by the trials and difficulties of this world? No, but it does mean that, as a Christian, I know that *“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”* (James 1:17). I also know that, as a Christian, I have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Colossians 1:13). I also know that I am simply a pilgrim passing through and that this world is not my home. In a very real sense the home I live in now is simply a “tabernacle,” a temporary dwelling place. Jesus has gone to prepare my permanent dwelling place.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

Just Thinking

Wouldn’t it be a great idea to set aside a certain amount of time each day to spend in contemplation of God? To mentally set aside the daily grind, if but for a few moments, and fill our heads with thoughts of God can only cause our faith, trust, adoration, gratitude, and confidence in Him to soar. If only a minute can be spared let us spare that minute. Moments between projects or assignments at work or school, moments we usually set aside to stretch or walk down to the fountain for a quick drink before diving right back into our work, let’s use those moments to consider our God. Those valuable free moments we often dedicate to our computer screens for a quick perusal of national news, why not begin dedicating a few of them to God for a quick prayer? Those rare free moments in our day where we pull out the magazine or book we’ve brought with us to read, why not purchase an easy to carry New Testament and make that our free moment reading material, or at least add it to the mix? I can only imagine doing these things would make us all better saints. What do you think?

Sermons: AM (A Christian and the local church) PM (Brethren)
Scripture Reading : AM (Matthew 14:22-36) PM (Matthew 15:1-20)