



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 8, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

February 8

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 16-21

Weekly Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday at 2 pm

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

January 3

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ

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“KEEP ON, KEEPING ON”

Being a Bible based Christian is no easy thing today. Those who demand Bible authority are called “behind the times,” “ultra-conservative,” or “narrow-minded” by those in the religious world. Members of the church of Christ are often referred to as “Campbellites” by denominational folks in an attempt to make the church just another denomination. And any Christian attempting to point out sin in our country is called “un-American” or is labeled as unpatriotic. The fact is that whether we talk about society or churches, there is enough name calling around to discourage anyone.

But then we remember what Jesus said, “*Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*” (Matt. 5:11-12.) There can be true happiness for those who are persecuted for the right reasons. If name calling and persecution can lead to a great reward, can it be so terrible?

We often forget to rejoice in sufferings because we forget the cause for which we suffered in the first place. In Acts 5, Peter and John were arrested, publicly beaten, and told not to preach Jesus any more. But notice their attitude toward all of this, “*And they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name*” (Acts 5:41.) The name here means Jesus Christ and they didn’t focus on the dishonor of being beaten. Instead, they rejoiced that they could suffer for the glorious cause of Christ. After all, Jesus had suffered the shame and disgrace of the cross for them (Heb. 12:2-3) and that meant something of great value to them. It should for

Members Needing Our Prayers

Bobbie Atkisson, Pat Seabolt, Ralph Fox, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Gary Brown, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Mike Seimo, Charlene Michaels, Bob Brundige, Rose Curtis, Josh McKibben, Stuart Goodpasture, Phyllis Harmon, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

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us as well. The great gift of heaven would not be possible without our Lord's death on the cross and we should keep our focus on that. Certainly, a little suffering on our part pales in comparison to heaven.

Jesus made sure to stress that the name calling and persecution Christians may face should be "for righteousness sake" and that the "all kinds of evil" spoken against us was false "on my account." Truly, trouble will find us if we live godly lives. (2 Tim. 3:12) We don't have to look for it and we certainly don't have to generate it by picking fights with others. But when it finds us, we can't shrink away from it either. Paul said, "*When reviled, we bless, when persecuted, we endure, when slandered, we entreat, 'We have become and are still like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things'*" (1 Cor. 4:13.) Paul stood firm against the trials he faced and handled them the right way – as Jesus would. He wasn't looking for trouble nor was he out there picking fights with people. So, let us stand firm in our ever-growing godless society as we follow Jesus' example. In other words, we can "keep on, keeping on." Wayde Miller

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
David Collins	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
Adam Litmer	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	
	Troy Antle	

