

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

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“...let us consider how we may encourage one another”  
Heb. 10:24

January 15, 2023

## Expressing Our Need

Dee Bowman

I had almost gone past the poor little thing before I saw him. I was walking near a concrete drainage ditch when I heard him flapping furiously in the shallow water. It was a little bird. It had somehow fallen into the ditch, gotten its wings wet and could not fly out. Time and again it tried, but to no avail.

I almost walked on. Suddenly it struck me. He can't help himself. If I don't do something, he'll die there. There is no one else.

It was about three feet down to where he was. Lying flat on my stomach, I reached down, expecting him to move away from me, but prepared to try and catch him. Instead, he didn't move. He was as still as could be. It was as if he was inviting me to pick him up. It was like he knew he had done all he could.

I got him out, shook the water off, and set him out on the dry ground. He flapped his wings, shaking the water from them, and scurried off, listing precariously to the left as he ran. I was glad I stopped. I went on my way thinking how the aging process for animals is so much shorter than in humans and how that several "years" had been added to the little bird's life. Man is much like that little bird. He can't help himself. Jeremiah says, “Oh, Jehovah, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps” ( Jeremiah 10:23). Man may become very wise, he may ingeniously concoct many wonderful things; but he could never have devised a means for his own salvation. As long as he trusts in himself, he remains helplessly mired in sin (Romans 6:23).

In Proverbs 14:12, we are told “there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death.” Just because man thinks he has

**“Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,  
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.” Psalm 36: 5**

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## Prayer List and Announcements

**Jeanette Aldridge** continues to feel well. The cold weather doesn't bother her much as she is mostly indoors.

**Janett King** is feeling better. Saturday she enjoyed a visit from her daughter Sheila and grandson Grayson.

**Deborah Grigsby** continues to deal with back pain. She has a couple doctor's appointments next week. She will be able to visit Mike this week, so that will help her feel some better.

**Fred Duggin** did not have anymore episodes this week. He is feeling some fatigue, and continues to struggle with stomach pains. He will have a swallowing test on Jan. 24th and then a follow up with his personal care physician the 25th. He is waiting to hear from the neurologist regarding a consultation. He said he may be at church Sunday.

**Betty Travis** has been eating a bit better this week, but her mind is cloudy. Pam really needs our prayers for strength.

**Betty Dennis** continues to recover from the flu. She is feeling much better but continues to cough. Her eye remains stable at this time.

**Carter Holsonback**, the great-grandson of Doug and Linda Driver, has been suffering from fevers and diarrhea for a couple of months, and Thursday evening his temperature spiked to 104. His parents brought him to the ER in Birmingham, where he was admitted. They expect he will be there until at least the middle of the week. I know they will appreciate our prayers.

### \*\*Let us continue to Remember in Prayer\*\*

Janett King, Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Keith Barclay (friend of Betty Copley), Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Dalton Gregory, and Esther Carrera, co-worker of Dwight Mullett.

### Birthdays:

16th: Amy Pittman

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 15, 2023

*Sunday Morning:*

### Call to Worship:

Matthew 16:24-28

Austin Miller

### Song Leader:

Dennis Blanton

### First Prayer:

Michael Pittman

### Presentation/Lord's Table

Stanton See

### Servers:

Mark Claypool \*\*Dwight Mullett

### Speaker:

Johnny Felker

### Prayer & Announcements:

Larry Miller

### Usher:

Ralph Brown

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*Sunday Evening:*

### Call to Worship:

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Doug Driver

### Song Leader:

Larry Miller

### First Prayer:

Stanton See

### Speaker:

Johnny Felker

### Lord's Table:

Doug Driver

### Prayer and Announcements:

Barry Cary

### Usher:

Ralph Brown

## Preacher's Pen points

# The Call to Discipleship



*Much of Jesus' teaching focused on the meaning and blessings of discipleship.*

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### The M\_\_\_\_\_ of Discipleship

Discipleship means diligently listening to Jesus' teaching (Mt. 11:29; see also Jn. 13:13; Eph. 4:20-21).

Discipleship means patterning our lives after Jesus' example (Mt. 16:24).

Discipleship means giving Jesus control of our lives (Mt. 11:29). Making Jesus Lord means surrendering for us (Mt 16:24).

Discipleship means total loyalty to Jesus over all else—over family (Lk. 14:26); over self-interest (Mt. 16:24); over material things (Lk. 14:33).

Discipleship means making a carefully-weighed commitment to Jesus (Lk. 14:28-32; see also Lk. 9:57-62)

### The B\_\_\_\_\_ of Discipleship

The choice to learn from Jesus is to possess control and dominion in life (Jn. 8:12, 31-32). It is to live a life of purpose.

The choice to follow Jesus is to bless others and please and glorify the Father so that He in turn will bless us with Jesus (Jn. 8:29; Mt. 17:5; Col. 3:3-4; Jn. 17:24; Rom. 8:16-17; 1 Jn. 3:2-3)

The choice to deny self and make Jesus Lord is to truly forsake ourselves and live the life we were created to live (Jer. 10:23; 17:9; Mt. 16:25; Jn. 10:10).

The choice to put him first over every earthly thing is to ignore all things human. (Mt. 19:29; 16:26-27; Rev. 14:13; Rom. 8:18)

The challenges of discipleship are great; so carefully weigh your decision. But if you are seeking something greater than this earthly life and what it affords, then the choice to be a disciple of Jesus is the greatest decision you will ever make.

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found a solution to his problem does not make it so. Religious people everywhere are putting their confidence in some creed, some religious organization, some charismatic person, or in some subjective religious experience, thinking they have found the way. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," says Paul (Romans 1:22).

We are not as smart as the little bird. Why is it that we refuse help? Pride? Rebellion? Unconcern? Perhaps all of the above.

Part of the reason is we don't choose to see ourselves as God sees us. We don't want to admit that we have a need. Like the little creature, we are flapping around furiously, thinking we are getting somewhere when we are in fact falling right back into the same place after every flurry.

Jesus, in John 14:6, described himself as the true and living way. He emphasizes that fact by affirming that, "no man cometh to the Father but by me." That's strong language, folks. It says emphatically that there is but one way, and that one way is Jesus Christ.

But how does that become practical? Is it enough to just accept that fact?

In John 12:48, Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

If he is the way and if his words will be the basis on which we are all judged, then we cannot divorce his way from His word. The word is the way. That means that there is no difference in the man and the plan. In fact, the man is the plan and the plan is the man. One cannot be without the other.

His way is plain. He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Nothing hard about that. True, it's not man's way. Man says, "He that believeth is saved and can be baptized." But nowhere in His word, the word of Jesus, will you ever find that. Will you follow man's ways, or God's ways? No one else can help us. We are lost if He does not take an interest in us and rescue us from sin.

Let us submit to His will and He will set us free.

(Market Street Messenger 5/22/22~via The Southside Sunday; Pasadena, Texas)