

SERVING IN WORSHIP

November 16, 2014

Sunday Morning Worship

Call to Worship: Lk. 13:1-5

Larry Miller

Song Leader

Mark Claypool

First Prayer

Walter Culbreth

Presentation

Brandon Graves

Lord's Table

Alex Crowell Curtis Hickey

Michael Pittman Steve Tomlinson

Speaker

Johnny Felker

Prayer & Announcements

Doug Driver

Usher: Ralph Brown

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Sunday Evening Worship

Call to Worship: Lk. 12:16-34

Brandon Graves

Song Leader

Curtis Hickey

First Prayer

Jim Smiley

Speaker

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table

Mark Claypool

Prayer & Announcements

Dennis Blanton

Usher: Ralph Brown

Remember in Prayer

The Sick

Bo Wohlrahe had his second treatment on Oct 20, 2014. He was having a CT scan on Thursday Nov. 13th.. He should get the results when he goes back to the doctor on Tuesday. Please keep Bo & Ethel in your prayers.

Anna Booher had a wonderful birthday. Thanks to all who sent cards. At last count she received 238 cards. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Joyce Dodson has another tumor in her neck. As long as the tumor does not grow, they are waiting until December to start an experimental program.

Wayne Whitt, Sandy Scott's uncle, went home from rehab last week. There are still concerns about his liver.

Pam Jenkins, a friend of Sandy Scott, has 1 more chemo treatment. She has a blood clot that that can not treat due to bleeding at the cancer sight. She is having an MRI in November.

Aiden, a friend of Nathan Graves, had an accident and broke his leg. Nathan asks for prayers for his friend.

Juanita Gatewood, Betty Copley's sister in law, is still suffering from cancer. Hospice has been called in. Her address is 1611 Shatz Road, Union City, TN 38261-5907, c/o Tammy Eaker. Cards would be appreciated.

Continue To Remember

Loraine Calvert, (Dorothy Shaver's sister), **Evelyn Felker** (Johnny Felker's mother), **Debra Luther**, **Ronald Miller** (Larry's Dad), **Ruth Neely**, **Betty and Susan Peterson**, **Ernestine Reed**, **Katherine See** and **Margaret Sehorn**, **Susie Kaiser**, **Joyce Dodson**, **Jane Storey** (Ethel's sister), **Bo Wohlrahe's** parents, **Janett King**, **Tim Nolan**, **Dan Edward's** (brother-in-law). **Anna Booher & Evan Booher**, **Pam Jenkins** (a friend of Sandy Scott), **Jeff Haselden** (Carol Badacour's father), **Suzy Martell** (friend of Shirley Ford), **Sarah Edwards**, mother of the **Driver's** son-in-law, **Vicki Collins** (a friend of **Betty C.** and **Carolyn L.**), **Tom Warden** (**Marietta Neathery's** father), **Josh Neville**, **Dot Gentry**, **Anita Carmen's** friend, **Peggy Blunkall**, **Joe Edwards** (**Jeanette Aldridge's** brother in law).

News & Notes

Group 3 will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

—BIRTHDAYS—

11/17 Larry Miller, 11/18 Susan Peterson, 11/19 Karen Shelton.

ELDERS: Doug Driver, Johnny Felker

DEACONS: Ralph Brown, Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 883-3118
www.perryheights.faithweb.com

Service Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am; Worship 9:55 am & 6:00 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

November 16, 2014

"Salvation Changes Everything (1 Peter 4:1-11)

Some events in life change you. A new job changes where you go and what you know. Getting married changes where you live and what you do. Each of us carry around both smiles and scars from events that changed our life forever. For the Christian the pivotal event in life is salvation. It was that moment we were plucked out of orphanage of sin and adopted into the family of God. It formed a continental divide between the desert of worldliness and the abundant life that is in Christ. Our salvation changed everything.

Peter compares our salvation to the experience of Noah (1 Peter 3:18-22). Noah lived in a world dominated and damaged by sin, but one day Noah stepped into the ark and everything changed. God's wrath removed the sin, and when Noah emerged the world was a very different place. That is what happened in baptism. We entered the water of baptism scared by sin, but by the power of Christ's resurrection we emerged a *changed* people.

That salvation changed the way we think about sin (1 Peter 4:1-6), and service (1 Peter 4:7-11). Wherever salvation is present these two fruits will be found in abundance.

Salvation Changes Your Attitude About Sin (4:1-6)

The light of God's grace exposes the ugliness of our sin and drives us from its presence (John 8:11, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more"). How can we look at what Jesus suffered to eradicate sin and want anything to do with it? Yet, a life of holiness requires several important decisions. **Holiness requires a willingness to suffer (:1-2)**. After all, it was Jesus' suffering that removed our sin in the first place (3:18), and it is our willingness to suffer for righteousness that will keep sin from returning. Our willingness to suffer the insults of the world and the attack of our own sinful desires is an emphatic cry that we are finished living for sin. We have made the settled decision to use the rest of our lives to serve the will of God, come what may. If not, sin is pressing in at the door of every believer who desires comfort and pleasure above the purposes of God in every moment. Yet, a willingness to suffer does not come easily, so Peter gives us three reasons why we should embrace suffering for righteousness sake. These reasons are rooted in the *past* (:3), *present* (:4), and *future* (:5-6); thus surrounding us with motivation for holiness in all directions!

Holiness rejects what the world calls "fun" (:3). Believers who smile fondly at the values of the world are doomed to slide into its trap. Instead we are to see its futility (1:18). Peter's description of a society obsessed with sex, alcohol and parties is a clear picture of our own. The believer, however, peers through the tinsel on the tree to see the deadness beneath. What the world calls fun is a fraud. It destroys the body and it empties the soul. Most of all it disrespects the cross.

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Preacher's Pen points

The Church You Can Read About in the Bible



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Since the NT is a revelation it communicates God's will in the same way all intelligent beings communicate: by t _____, by s _____, by i _____.

God's order for the church is not formally set forth in a legal code like He gave Israel at Mount Sinai, but instead it is displayed in the descriptions of the life of J _____ and in the record of the establishment of church by Jesus' a _____.

Wherever the apostles taught the gospel, local c _____ came into existence; and they immediately went to work establishing the fundamental f _____ of the local church from its beginning (Ac. 2:38; 20:7; 14:21-23; 1 Cor. 11:2; 4:17).

In addition, the apostles in their letters gave explicit commands that would assist newly-formed churches in "setting in o _____" the things lacking to become a church according to God's pattern (Tit. 1:5; 1 Tim. 3:14-15).

Consider also that the apostles in their epistles sought to r _____ NT churches to their founding pattern when they departed from the things handed down to them at their establishment. (See 1 Cor. 11:17-34).

By observing the churches established by the apostles, we can see the p _____ created by the teaching the apostles passed along to the churches (Jn. 16:13; 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thes. 4:14) and apply it to our current situation.

Thus the NT Scriptures communicate God's will for the church through

...purpose statements and c _____ by which God t _____ us what He wants.

...apostolic e _____ by which God s _____ us what He wants.

...necessary i _____ by which we are led to d _____ what He wants.

This is not some artificial construct imposed upon the Bible; instead it is the means by which all intelligent beings communicate with one another! God's communications give us the information to know what He wants.

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Holiness does not seek to please people (:4). The darkness never likes the searching light of righteousness (John 3:19-21), and therefore it seeks to ostracize those who live by it. The world thinks believers are "strange" and they speak of them as "fools" and treat them with disrespect. Disciples who value the acceptance of people above the approval of God will quickly melt in the presence of such dislike. Doctrines will be dropped and behaviors changed so as not to upset the critics. Holiness is abandoned in the pursuit of acceptance.

Holiness looks to the judgment (:5-6). Seeking to please the world is a misguided effort since we are all racing toward judgment. God stands at the ready and no one will escape His righteous rule. What seems popular, powerful and irresistible today doesn't stand a chance before the Judge of heaven. Worldliness is a shack on the beach waiting the hurricane of God's wrath... don't buy into it! (see note on verse 6 below) Salvation changes us, not only by taking some things out, but also by putting some things in. Our Salvation changes our attitude toward sin, and we rid ourselves of its love and practice. But, in the void we place something much more precious; a loving service to others.

Salvation Changes Your Attitude About Service (4:7-11)

God's grace awakens within us a desire to share the love He has shown us. Years earlier Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, and she responded immediately by getting up and serving others (Mark 1:29-31). So it is with all who are touched by His grace. This service takes several, practical forms. [Please note the collective responsibility these verses require. They reveal that we need each other if we are going to make it in this world.]

Serve up prayer (:7). Living for Jesus in a sinful world is often scary and sometimes painful, but we never walk alone! We can pray. Peter may remember the time he and John were threatened by the Sanhedrin and ordered not to preach about Jesus again. They left, assembled with the saints, and *prayed*, and then preached with more boldness than ever before (Acts 4:31). Or perhaps he remembers when James was killed by Herod, and he was arrested to be the next one to die. But, the church gathered and *prayed* and he was delivered (Acts 12:1-19). People in times of pressure need prayer. It is a service we all can do

Serve up your love (:8-10). The words of prayer are not enough; service requires action and not just when it's easy. 1) We are to show love to others even when they sin (:8). We bear with the wrong, and forgive the hurt, and patiently endure the pain without broadcasting the sin to everyone who will hear. 2) In addition, we show our love by helping those in need (:9). Intimately and personally show hospitality to people in their moment of need, and do it without grumbling. 3) Finally, use all the blessings and abilities God has given you for the good of others (:10). This kind of service causes the full spectrum of God's grace to be seen through our lives. Such service is not always easy because we are weak and people are difficult. So, Peter gives us two great motivations. *First*, "The end of all things is at hand" (:7). The time is short. So, rid yourself of any bit of sin and fervently serve others with love because you don't have much time! *Second*, "do it with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified" (:11). Holiness is hard, no doubt. Serving is difficult, for sure. But, we do not face these things alone. God supplies the ability. He will give you the strength and not allow you to be tested beyond your ability to bear it. So, go ahead and live a holy life and serve others. The world needs to see His glory!

Tim Jennings <http://focusmagazine.org>