

## Remember in Prayer:

### The Bereaved:

**Chris Tanksley**, daughter-in-law of James & Jean and sister-in-law of Sandy Kingston, passed away and was buried last week. Our sympathy is extended to the Tanksley & Kingston families.

### The Sick:

**Cecelia O'Brien** is at home suffering with bronchitis.

**James Tanksley** is unable to be out due to heart problems and recovery from knee replacement surgery.

**Xenna Gooch** is still suffering with blood pressure fluctuations and is being closely monitored by her physicians.

**Otis Dodd**, brother of Xenna Gooch, is still in very serious condition after suffering an aneurysm several weeks ago.

**Pat Wallace**, Betty Copley's sister-in-law, is at home recovering from a serious bacterial infection.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including **Brownie Spicer, Jean Barte (Teresa's stepfather), Burton Brown (Betty's brother).**

\*\*\*

***"So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:7***

## News & Notes:

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

### **If I Miss Heaven. . .**

I'll miss the greatest, grandest, most glorious place every conceived (Rev. 21:1);

I'll miss a grand reunion with family who preceded me. (Gen. 49);

I'll realize the tragedy of taking the blood Christ shed in sacrifice for me for granted (Heb. 2:9);

I'll never again see the light of day (Matt. 25-30);

I'll suffer unbearably and unendingly (Mark 9:43);

I'll never again have the opportunity to praise and worship Jehovah God (Matt. 25:41);

I'll be punished with the demons (Matt. 25-41);

I'll not have one friend or loved one to care about my fate (Rev. 21:4);


I'll have no hope (Rom. 8:24; Titus 1:2);

I'll be lost forever (Rev. 14:10-11).

*--Bulletin Digest*

**ELDERS:** Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker

**DEACONS:** Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool

 **Service Times**

**SUNDAY**  
**Bible Study—9:00 am**  
**Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Bible Study 7:00 pm**

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"*  
*Heb. 10:24*

**Perry Heights church of Christ**  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118  
[www.perryheights.faithweb.com](http://www.perryheights.faithweb.com)

January 11, 2009

## Unselfishness in a Selfish World

I know the world has been this way for hundreds of years. Maybe I am alone in awakening to a reality that is becoming more pervasive in our society. But it seems that an outbreak of massive proportions has taken place that may never be reversed. The contagion is selfishness and the symptoms are prevalent. It seems our society has made a greater shift in becoming self-absorbed and completely uncaring about other people.

I am sure you see it when you drive. There is always someone (hopefully not ourselves) who thinks they are the only one who has to be somewhere. They are willing to tailgate, cut people off, make obscene gestures, run traffic lights, ignore ambulances with sirens, drive on the shoulder and tear through medians because they need to be at some appointment. Of course, no one else needs to be anywhere. We all drive around just to run interference and create obstacles for those who are busy.

But few think about the other person anymore. Rarely does someone wave to another driver at a stop sign to have him go first. If someone does let a person in front of them (especially when merging on a highway), the horns will certainly be blaring for this act of insolence. These examples are mere symptoms of the growing problem in our culture. It may be time for us to write new science books because it has become clear that the planets revolve around "ME."

What has happened that has caused us to become so uncaring about other human beings? When did we start viewing other people as the enemy first, rather than a potential friend? What made us begin to think that every person is out to hurt us rather than help us? When did we think we could begin to assume the worst in people rather than the best in people?

It is shameful to see our society move in this direction of selfishness. But how much worse is it to see those who claim to wear the name of Christ act in the exact same manner toward other Christians and toward the lost? As troubling as it may be to see the wicked continue to plunge itself into selfishness, it is disturbing to notice that Christians have followed them down this path.

*"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others"* (Phil. 2:4). It is easy to forget that the world does not revolve around our schedules and our lives. We need to be frequently reminded that there are others who need our help and are in worse circumstances than ourselves. *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect*

*--continued on page 3*



Just as God blessed the physical creation with the command “Be fruitful,” so we also as His new creation are to be fruitful. Here’s why we need to live a fruitful life.

\*\*\*\*\*

**To demonstrate true \_\_\_\_\_**

Therefore bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ in keeping with repentance; (Mt. 3:7-9)

**To escape the \_\_\_\_\_ of God**

And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 3:10)

**To avoid losing the privileges of divine \_\_\_\_\_**

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the \_\_\_\_\_ of it. (Mt. 21:43)

**To fulfill the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_**

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might \_\_\_\_\_ for God. (Rom. 7:4)

**To prove that we are true \_\_\_\_\_**

By this is My Father glorified, that you bear \_\_\_\_\_ fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (Jn. 15:8)

**To bring glory to the \_\_\_\_\_**

By this is My Father \_\_\_\_\_, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (Jn. 15:8)

**How do you see yourself? Are you a vibrant disciple that is growing and producing fruit for the Lord? Are you a credit to the Creator?**



--continued from front page

unity” (Col. 3:12-14). God has reminded us how we are to act as His children. Our lives are to be clothed with compassion and kindness toward one another. We are to be full of patience and gentleness because we are God’s chosen people. We must keep this picture in front of our minds as the desired goal of who we are to become as disciples of Jesus. I offer three suggestions as to how we can put selfishness to death in our lives.

**See God properly.** “Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations’” (Ex. 34:6-7).

We can never forget God’s character in our desire to be like Him. God is slow to anger, forgiving and abounding in love toward undeserving people. God is not selfish. Never in all the scriptures do we read any action where we can see God acting selfishly or only showing concern for Himself. From creation to the sacrifice of Jesus, all that we see is selflessness in our Lord. We must remember to strive to be like the Master (Mt. 10:25).

**See ourselves properly.** We often act selfishly because we forget the mercy that has been extended to us by the Lord. Jesus attempted to keep God’s mercy at the forefront of our minds when He spoke the parable of the unjust servant in Matthew 18. After being forgiven a tremendous debt by the master, the unjust servant demanded a fellow slave repay all that was owed. “Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And the master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him” (Mt. 18:32-34). It is far more difficult to act selfishly and lack compassion when we remember all the mercy that has been extended toward us. When we delude ourselves into thinking that we have “only been forgiven little,” then we will not love God and love one another to the capacity we ought (Lk. 7:47). We require just as much of Jesus’ blood for our sins as the next person.

**See others properly.** Only when we see God properly and see ourselves properly will we be able to see humanity properly. Consider how Jesus perceived people. “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (Mt. 9:36). We must see the souls of people and not see people only for their actions. I cannot look at my neighbor as the jerk who shoots fireworks over my house during every holiday. Such an outlook will breed selfishness within me. I cannot consider other drivers as rude people who are trying to prevent me from getting to my destination. This outlook will drive compassion far from me. Rather, I must see each person as God’s creation, lost sheep needing the Chief Shepherd. I cannot see the golfer who hits balls at my cart as someone who needs an attitude adjustment, and I am the one to give it to him! I will only become more angry and vindictive. I must see a soul who needs the gospel and think about what my example may do to help him.

Let us try to catch our selfishness and make a concerted effort to turn away from this behavior. Selfishness is a growing contagion that our souls cannot afford to catch.

Brent Kercheville, *Focus Magazine*