

Remember in Prayer:

The Bereaved:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Shirley Quick** who passed away last week.

The Sick:

Xenna Gooch is improving some but is still being closely monitored by her physicians due to continued blood pressure problems.

Karen Shelton is recovering at home after having surgery on her feet.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including

Brownie Spicer, Burton Brown (Bettye's brother), Cecelia O'Brien, Celia Vozka, (Dorothy's sister) and James Tanksley.

News & Notes:

--**Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."


Matthew 7:24

Brother Against Brother

1. Whose older brother refused to attend the welcome home party? Luke 15:28
2. What son of Gideon killed 70 of his brothers at once? Judges 9:1-5
3. What judge was thrown out of the house by his brother? Judges 11:1-2
4. Who hated his brother for taking away his birthright? Genesis 27:41
5. What did Moses rebuke Aaron for? Exodus 32:19-22
6. Who was the first man to murder his brother? Genesis 4:8
7. Who hated his brother Ammon for what he had done to Tamar? 2 Samuel 13:22
8. What boy was hated for being his father's favorite? Genesis 37:4

Answers: 1. The prodigal son's; 2. Abimelech; 3. Jephthah; 4. Esau; Making the golden calf; 6. Cain; 7. Absalom; 8. Joseph

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*

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February 8, 2009

God Will Grant Your Heart's Desire

"Grant thee thy heart's desire, and fulfill all thy counsel" (Psalm 20:4). "Thou has given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips (Psalm 21:2).

Psalm 20 and 21 have an intimate connection: Israel is praying for its king, that he will have victory over his enemies. They pray that God will grant the desire of David's heart (20:4) and then they thank Him for doing so (21:2).

Is it wrong to desire? What should regulate our desires? Is God even concerned about what our heart desires? Can we pray for God to grant our desires?

First, we must understand that desire (lust) is not wrong in and of itself. Desires may be good or bad, noble or base, loving or selfish. Our Father clearly distinguishes between these. And motive for our desires is terribly important. If our motivation is evil, we should not expect God to grant our desires. *"Grant not, O Jehovah, the desires of the wicked; further not his evil device, lest they exalt themselves"* (Psalm 104:8; see also 112:10; 10:3; Proverbs 21:25). However, if we are righteously motivated, He will grant our desires. *"Delight thyself also in Jehovah; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart"* (Psalm 37:4; see also 10:17; 145:19; Proverbs 10:24). Of course, we are speaking in generalities; God hands us no carte blanche for our every whim.

The entire drama of life would come to a standstill were it not for desire in the human heart. Hope and effort would die and be displaced by apathy and lethargy. There is nothing wrong with desire. But because desires are often wrong, or unregulated, the word "lust" in the Bible, which simply means "pleasure" or "desire," has come to have a bad connotation (see Romans 10:1 for a good usage of the word). James puts his finger on all these ungoverned, inordinate desires as the source of all the strife which disturbs the world (4:1-2).

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Preacher's
Pen points

Getting Rooted by
Assembling with the Saints #2



If we are to bear fruit for the Lord, we must get our roots down deep into the word. Assembling with God's people provides opportunities to become more fruitful.

Show our love and appreciation to _____

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I shall pay my vows to the Lord, Oh may it be in the _____ of all His people. (Ps. 116:12-14)

Give encouragement to our _____

...and let us consider how to stimulate _____ to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

But _____ one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb. 3:13)

Work in cooperation with the church's _____

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to _____ the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with _____ and not with _____, for this would be unprofitable for you. (Heb. 13:17)

Help our _____ build knowledge and faith

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and _____ of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

Here then are four more good reasons to get your roots down deep in the word of God by assembling with the saints. Your presence can make a difference to you, to your children, to your brethren; and it matters to God!

--continued from front page

But what we desire is all-important. It is, in fact, the test of our character. "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently him that is before thee; and put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties; seeing they are deceitful food...Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire his dainties: for as he thinketh within himself, so is he: Eat and drink, said he to thee; but his heart is not with thee" (Proverbs 23:1-3; 6-7; 19:21-22). True motivation—what a man really desires, what is in his heart—that is his character.

As to prayer, God wants His children to ask their hearts' desire, but He wants them to desire only what is right (James 4:3). The whole panorama of human desire is open to God's eye. At the same time, we should be thankful that our hearts' desires are not the limits of God's giving (Eph. 3:20). His greatest "unspeakable gift" came to a prayerless, thankless, godless world (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).

But God does give us a practical test of our discipleship. It is this. Will our desires fit into our prayers? Can we conscientiously ask God for what we really desire? If not, we had better rid ourselves of these desires. Can we come with boldness to the throne of grace, and say, "Lord, all my desire is before thee"? (Psalm 38:9; Isaiah 26:8). Prayer should be the outpouring of the desires of our heart—but it must be a heart attuned to the things of God. If our hearts are consistent with His will, He will truly grant to us the desires of our heart.

-Christianity Magazine

"...For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39