

WHAT KIND OF HEARTS DO WE NEED?

- **Hearts not hardened by sin:** “But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened **through** the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13).
 - **Hearts prepared to seek and to do God's word:** “For Ezra had **prepared** his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10).
 - **Hearts that are wise:** “So teach us to number our day's, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psa. 90:12).
 - **Hearts that are upright:** “Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts” (Psa. 125:4).
 - **Hearts that do not think evil:** “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” (Mat. 9:4).
 - **Hearts willing to forgive:** “So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts, forgive not every one his brother their trespasses” (Mat. 18:35).
 - **Hearts filled with God's Word:** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psa. 119:11). “And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4:15).
 - **Hearts filled with love:** “**And** hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5).
 - **Hearts filled with Christ:** “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love” (Eph. 3:17).
 - **Hearts kept by peace:** “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:7)
- Hearts filled with grace:** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to Lord” (Col. 3:16).
- Hearts that are purified:** “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purity your hearts, double minded” (Jas. 4:8).

Selected

BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

(Greater Augusta, GA area)

“Let Us Begin With Prayer”

We have probably heard this expression many times. It is good and right that God's children recognize their need for Him and accordingly approach His throne. Let us now consider various applications of the thought: “Let us begin with prayer.”

Let Us Begin the Day With Prayer

In so doing, we will be following the example of Jesus Christ. We read: “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35). As the song states: “Ere you left your room this morning did you think to pray.”

Let Us Begin Our Decisions with Prayer

This is what our Lord did before selecting his twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-16). The Bible states: “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12). The Son of God Himself needed to approach the Father's throne, and He is much greater than we are. What an example for us this is!

We also recall how that Joshua and the men of Israel were beguiled by the Gibeonites (Jos. 9:1-27). Why? They “asked not *counsel* at the mouth of the LORD” (9:14). Do we seek the Lord's counsel by Bible study and prayer unto Him? By prayerfully following God's Word, we will receive His wise counsel. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105).

Let Us Begin Our Family with Prayer

The godly woman Hannah is a great example of this. She promised God that if He would give her a man child, that she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life: “And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head” (1 Sam. 1:11). God granted her request and she bore Samuel, who would become one of the greatest characters of all time.

There are other matters pertaining to the family for which one should pray, such as the choice of a godly mate, the bringing up of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, strength and wisdom, and setting spiritual priorities which result in choices producing the greatest spiritual benefit.

Continued on page 3

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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The following was received sometime ago in a bulletin that I received.

THE ABC'S OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

A-ccept the fact that no one is perfect.

B-ible study is absolutely essential.

C-ount your many blessings.

D-ig deeply for worthwhile causes.

E-njoy the simple things in life.

F-ight for that which is right.

G-o to church services every opportunity.

H-elp the needy.

I - can't do everything, but I can do something.

J-ust a cup of cold water in His name will receive a reward.

K-eep on keeping on even when others falter.

L-ove your enemies!

M-ost people don't intend to go to hell.

N-ext time turn the other cheek

o-pen your heart and let God's love in.

P-eople will not always be on your side.

Q-uality of life is more important than quantity of life.

R-eturn good for evil.

S-elfishness has ruined many congregations.

T-hankfulness is never untimely.

U-nderstand your leaders' problems.

V-ictory is yours in Christ Jesus!

W-orry is your worst enemy.

X-ray your life and not the lives of others.

Y-earn for Heaven.

Z-est for living is no substitute for living in Christ.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister who has health problems and the Moulton family in England.

Glenn Aaron continues to recuperate from surgery at home. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Sister Grimsley was still sick and unable to be out Sunday.

Rachel Fitzpatrick's nephew, Rowdy, has been ill and they can't isolate the problems. He is to have some tests done. Keep him in your prayers.

Tim Smith, whose articles and poems (H. L. Gradowith) have appeared in the bulletin who, as the result of a hit and run accident nearly four years ago, has continued health issues has now developed further problems that could be very serious. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

“Let Us Begin With Prayer” continued from page 1

Let Us Begin a Great Work with Prayer

Nehemiah is one who saw the need for a great work and immediately began to pray about it: “And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned” (Neh. 1:4-11).

We recall how that king Artaxerxes of Persia, granted Nehemiah his cupbearer the request of going back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and even supplied the materials for it. Accordingly, Nehemiah gives God the glory: “And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me” (Neh. 2:8b).

Later, in order to hinder the work of rebuilding, the enemies of God's people sought to entice Nehemiah to compromise, but he refused, saying: “I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to your (Neh. 6:3). Moreover when they brought slander against Nehemiah and attempted to make the Jews afraid, what did Nehemiah do? He prayed unto God: “Now therefore, O God strengthen my hands” (Neh. 6:9b). This, plus the fact that the “people had a mind to work,” resulted in the completion of the reconstruction (Neh. 4:6; 6:15).

Let Us Be in a Position to Pray

In order for our prayers to avail much, we must be righteous people, and we must pray fervently. “Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jam. 5:16). The privilege of prayer is a great motivation to do the right and to shun the wrong: “For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Pet. 3:12).

*Danny Douglas,
Dresden, TN*