

cause it is the right thing to do. Faithfulness to the Lord and His church should not be dependent upon one's good health and financial prosperity. God's warning is clear that one should "not follow a multitude to do evil..." (Exo. 23:2). Any weak and sickly fish can drift with the current.

**Hezekiah put things in their right place!** "He removed the high places, and brake the pillars, and cut down the Asherah: and he brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it..." (2 Kings 18:4). Hezekiah knew that the things that pleased God had to be established, and the things that dishonored God had to be removed. Brethren, worldly things belong in the world—not in the Lord's church! Denominations have attempted for years to entice folks to "join them" by offering worldly gimmicks as bait. Now the Lord's church in many areas is doing its very best to imitate the denominations. Entertainment and drama are two worldly idols being used today to attract people, and they need to be torn down and cast out as they belong to the world—not in the church!

**Hezekiah called things by their right name!** He called the brazen serpent he broke into pieces "Nehustan," a mere piece of brass. The brazen serpent had served its purpose years before (Num. 21:9), but there people set it up as an idol and burned incense to it. This mere piece of brass was not an object of worship, and did not now need to be exalted or honored in a religious way. Instead of the attempt today at trying to pass off worldly gimmicks and gadgets as objects of worship, wouldn't it be great if people would just call them what they are? The Lord's church is not a recreational center or a social club. The Lord did not intend for people to assemble together on the first day of the week to be entertained, but rather to worship the true and living God in spirit and truth.

**Hezekiah placed his confidence in the right person.** "He trusted in Jehovah, the God of Israel...(2 Kings 18:5). So many are trusting in either themselves or some man. The Bible warns, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..." (Prov. 28:26). Think about the "church" of which you may be a member. Who established or founded it? A mere man is not our Savior (Tit. 2:13), and neither did a mere man shed his blood to purchase the Lord's church (Acts 20:28). If you desire to go to heaven, you must make sure your confidence is in the right person.

**Hezekiah walked in the right path.** The Scriptures declare, "For he clave to Jehovah; he departed not from following him, but kept his commandments which Jehovah com-

manded Moses" (2 Kings 18:6). Regardless of what some believe, there can be no cleaving unto Christ without following Him (I Pet. 2:21). To love and follow Christ is to obey His every command (Jno. 14:15; I Jno. 5:3). It is true that "his servants ye are to whom ye obey" (Rom. 6:16). May we put away sinful objects and idols and strive to be "servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:18).

## Parable of the Pencil

Author unknown

**T**HE Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. There are 5 things you need to know, he told the pencil, before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

1. You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand.
2. You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.
3. You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.
4. The most important part of you will always be what's inside.
5. On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart. Now change places with the pencil. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

"Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter." (1 Peter 4:16).

## Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003



Heartland church of Christ

3430 Dodge St. Suite 1  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003  
(563) 588-1974

### Evangelist

Michael Demory

### Ministers

All members of the church

### Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am  
Wednesday—7:00pm

### Evangellistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser

### TV Program

"The Bible Says"

Public Access  
Cable Channel 16

### Free Bible Studies

## Steps to Salvation

- **Hear the Word** (Romans 10:17)
- **Believe** (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Repent** (Luke 13:3)
- **Confess Christ** (Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21)
- **Faithful Living** (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- **Bearing fruit** (Colossians 1:10)

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# Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

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## Praying to Jesus and the Holy Spirit

By Garland Robinson

**T**HERE are three members (personalities) of the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Acts 17:29; John 5:18; Col. 2:9; Acts 5:3-4). Some conclude we can pray to any one or all three with God's approval. What does the Bible say? How did Jesus answer this question? He instructed his disciples to pray to the Father. "When thou prayest... **pray to thy Father**. ... After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matt. 6:6,9). We are not only instructed to pray to the Father, but to do so in the name of Jesus. "...That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name" (John 15:16). "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name. ... If ye shall ask any thing in my name" (John 14:13-14). Jesus says to his apostles, "and in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the father in my name. ... At that day ye shall ask in my name" (John 16:23,26). Since Jesus has said we are to pray to the Father in "his name," why not do it the way he said do it? Why wouldn't the Lord's own instructions be sufficient to answer the question, "to whom do we pray?" What else would the Lord have to say to get us to understand to whom prayer is to be addressed?

To pray "in the name of Jesus" simply means that we pray by or upon his authority. He is the one who instructs us to pray. The inspired apostle said, "And WHATSOEVER ye do in WORD or DEED do ALL in the NAME OF THE LORD JESUS" (Col. 3:17). If we, at our own option, can pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit instead of God the Father, then we must have authority from the Bible to do so. But where is such authority? To what verse shall we turn that gives us that authority? If we direct our prayer to Jesus, in whose name do we pray? Upon whose authority do we pray in such fashion? Do we pray to Jesus in the name of Jesus, or in the name of the Father, or in the name of the Holy Spirit? We find no command, no example nor anything implied in the Bible of any such practice! Notice the words of Robert R. Taylor, Jr. as he speaks about wisdom and how it is obtained. His text is James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." "...James tells us the how of wisdom's possession — ask of God.

Note that he did not tell them to study human philosophy. He did not tell them to sit at the feet of worldly-wise possessors who think they have the last word of any human difficulty. He told them to pray. Then he supplies us with some imperative instructions." "We are to pray to God. James did not believe nor urge that we pray to a departed saint like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, a minor prophet or one of the apostles in the New Testament. He did not say to pray to a departed ancestor like a father, mother or grandparent. These prayers would not avail." "Many today are confused about whether we are to pray to the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit or all three. I recently received a question in the mail touching whether we should pray to Jesus or not. James says ask God. This is the Father. He did

# Remember in Prayer

## Special Prayers

Mya Kulle (tumor)  
 Kristy Farr  
 Jo Gordon  
 Ruby Bagwell  
 Scharles & Graham Ballard  
 Preston Estes family  
 Our new evangelism effort  
 Lilly Rucker & family  
 Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing  
 Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis

Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.  
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.  
 Wade Miller—diabetes  
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God  
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God  
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer  
 Kaiser family  
 Jones family  
 Walker family  
 Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD  
 Eric Boor—blood disease  
 Rockfalls church of Christ  
 TV Program  
 State of our Nation  
 The closing of Planned Parenthood  
 The church  
 The erring & the Lost

## Military

Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan  
 Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY  
 Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan  
 Jason Cunningham—Stateside  
 Jon McCain—Tech Training  
 Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way

## Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.  
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.  
 Brian Sherrell—LaCrosse, Wisc.

Bernie Guzman—Philippines  
 Robert Lukenbill—Newton, Iowa  
 Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir  
 James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC  
 Derrick Brown —Jamaica  
 Gary Workman—Ukraine  
 Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India  
 G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India  
 John O'Neal—India & Ghana  
 Tom Wacaster—India & Russia  
 Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan  
 Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

# Calendar of Events

- **May 4-5**—Edit new program @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **June 6-10**—Gospel Meeting; Dubuque, IA
- **July**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

not say, 'Pray to my Elder Brother — the Christ.' He did not say pray to the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught the disciples in the Model Prayer to pray, 'Our Father, which art in heaven...' (Matt. 6:9). He was in their very midst and yet did not command, 'Pray to Me.' In his own recorded prayers in the New Testament Jesus NEVER prayed to Himself, never to the Spirit, never to an angel, never to mother Mary and never to a departed saint. The invocation of saints, prominent in Catholic circles, is NOT a Biblical doctrine. Stephen, in Acts 7, is not an exception. He was an inspired man and had direct communication back and forth with heaven having seen a vision of the standing Jesus at God's right hand. What he said to the Lord directly is in the same class as Ananias' conversation with Jesus relative to Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9:10-14. Here is a back and forth conversation between the Glorified Jesus in heaven and a faithful disciple in Damascus when the miraculous was still available. The apostles and prophets of the New Testament consistently taught that prayers are prayed to God in the name of Christ as Paul clearly and cogently taught in Ephesians 5:20."

James says that such prayers of God's faithful children will be heard and answered. If prayed sincerely and in *full* harmony with God's Word, every prayer will be heard and heeded. It may be a yes; that is an answer. It may be a no; that is an answer. It may be that God will give us some—thing different and far better than that we asked; this also is an answer — a precious one." "James gives us the blessed assurance that God is generous in His giving. He gives to all; He gives generously. There is no way we can duplicate this. We cannot give to all and surely cannot give generously to all regardless of the extent of earthly possessions. Some things only Heaven can do." "Furthermore, He does not upbraid us. He does not cast it back in our teeth. He does not say, 'You asked for this only yesterday or last week and here you are asking it again!'"

Far too often this is a human reaction between mates, between parents and children or among various relationships where there are givers and recipients. It goes something like this, 'What! You are asking this again! I have granted your requests repeatedly and now you are asking more of the same!' God gives; He gives to all; He gives to all generously; He does not cast it

back in our teeth when the next requests are made. Generous Jehovah combines both generosity and wisdom. Wisdom guides and governs God in all His bequeathed gifts to mankind generally and His people particularly. His physical gifts are for all such as air, food, water, etc. The spiritual gifts He gives are reserved for His people only as per Ephesians 1:3. This is a marvelous motivation for being a child of the Sovereign of the Universe — Jehovah God." (end quote) Why do people stray so far from the Bible? Why not just follow what it says? There's no need to make it complicated. When we do what those of the first century did to obey God and be found in His favor, then we will be accepted with God just as they were. Are you ready to follow the steps of the Savior wherever they lead?

## The Tragedy of Forgetting

by Jodie Boren

**A** while back I forgot something -- I don't remember what -- so my daughter laughed and said I was suffering from old timer's disease. A lot of jokes are made about old people forgetting, but the truth of the matter is that young people forget just as frequently as do old folks. We all forget things now and then! This is why Peter felt a keen responsibility to remind the brethren in Asia Minor of the truths they had been taught (2 Peter 1:12,13,15.)

One of the main reasons we forget something is a lack of interest in that particular something. Because we will one day be judged by God's word (John 12:48), it's imperative that we respect and love and desire God's word (Psalm 19:7-11).

We are to hunger and thirst after the righteousness contained in God's revelation (Psalm 119:172 and Matthew 5:6). God warned Israel in Deuteronomy 4:23, "Take heed unto your-

*self, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God."* In Deuteronomy 6:11 Moses wrote, "...beware lest thou forget the Lord." In Deuteronomy 8:11-14 we find a great exhortation not only to obey the commands of God, but to not forget the Lord. "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." As Christians, we've been delivered from the bondage of sin -- we can't forget God!

All Christians are God's Israel of today (Galatians 6:16). Thus, James says that we are not to be a forgetful hearer but a doer of God's word (James 1:22-25). In this context, James says the one blessed is the one that continues in the perfect law of liberty, i.e. the gospel. This, of course, means following the teaching of Christ.

What will happen if we forget the Lord? We can turn to Jeremiah 23 and read the warning given to the wicked priests and prophets some 600 years before Christ. The record states in v.39, "Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence." Can you imagine anything more tragic than being forgotten by God and cast from his glorious presence? It's terrible to even contemplate such a thing! Since the same God is still the sovereign ruler today as in Jeremiah's time, should we not heed that warning? Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

If we do not forget the Lord, but serve him faithfully, the reward is great! Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you. There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gos-

*pel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come, eternal life"* (Mark 10:29). What a precious promise!

It's no laughing matter to forget the Lord and his word. Our eternal destiny depends on our remembering the Lord and his covenant. Just as remembering names, dates, etc. takes desire, effort and practice, so does remembering the Lord. May we all be diligent seeker of God (Hebrews 11:6).

## Right Choices

Marvin L. Weir

**H**EZEKIAH was the son of wicked king, Ahaz, and yet he is known as one of Judah's godly kings. His name means "Jehovah is strength," and this 13th king of Judah courageously initiated religious reforms to remove the idolatry that had permeated the kingdom. Hezekiah was committed to doing the right and godly thing—something all Christians should do today.

**Hezekiah chose the right motive in that** "he did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah..." (2 Kings 18:3). He did not trust in his own feelings, nor was he influenced by the traditions of his father. Hezekiah chose to do right because it was the right thing to do. Joshua made the same choice years earlier when he said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell, but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah" (Josh. 24:15). Christians must also choose the right motive—worshipping and serving God be-