

The Importance of Humility

by Jon Mitchell

The Psalmist tells us that God distances himself from the proud (Ps. 138:6). In fact, a proud look not only separates one from God, it causes one to incur his wrath! This is undoubtedly why James wrote, ***“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”*** (James 4:6). But what is humility, really? What does humility demand, require, express, and acknowledge?

James went on to say, ***“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you”*** (James 4:7). Humility demands full submission to God. It’s difficult to teach those who think they are so wise that they already know enough. Because he gives grace to the humble, God’s people must put off their own desires and accept his law and love. This requires resisting Satan and his temptations to follow our own desires. That is what fully submitting to God means. Let us have the Bible and eternity in our minds and entirely adhere to sound Scripture in submission to God!

Then James said, ***“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands...purify your hearts...”*** (James 4:8). Humility requires seeking God’s favor and mercy. One who seeks his favor and a close relationship with him must be willing to come to him, for he does not force himself upon men. This is a decision based upon an individual’s faith and obedience. However, the key is WORK. It is not easy to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts, but that is what must be done.

Furthermore, James tells us we must ***“lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom”*** (James 4:9). Humility must express appropriate sorrow for sin. The sin that used to be fun and brighten our day must now ruin our days. It must make us feel absolutely terrible. That cannot happen unless we realize that sin will condemn us to hell, and therefore is a serious matter. Only then will we be like the tax collector, a man so sorrowful for his sins that he wouldn’t even look up to heaven but instead wailed, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13)

Finally, James concludes by saying, ***“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up”*** (James 4:10). Humility must acknowledge the sight of the Lord. The Psalmist and the prodigal son recognized that they had sinned against God and heaven (Ps. 51:4; Luke 15:18). God is the primarily the One against whom our sins are committed, and God is the only One who can pardon our sins. When we recognize that, it helps bring about humility.

God gives grace to the humble. While men repeatedly sin against him, God joyfully accepts those who take action and come to him in repentance (Luke 15:22-24). The way to heaven is to realize our sins and shortcomings, and humbly depend upon the will of an all-powerful God for our eternal salvation.

Providential Care

by Kevin Cauley

In Hebrews 1:14 we read, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” The context of this remark is in reference to comparing Jesus with God’s angels. The authority of Jesus is so much better than the authority of angels because He is on the right hand of God whereas the angels are merely ministering spirits. This is by far the best description that we are given concerning the responsibilities of angels within the New Testament. From this verse we learn that 1) they are ministering. 2) They are spirits. 3) They are sent from God. 4) They minister to the heirs of salvation. Is this part of God’s providential care for those who are still alive and in Christ today?

First, it is evident that today, those who are heirs of salvation must be in Christ. We read in Galatians 3:27-29 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Those who are in Christ are heirs. This passage makes that crystal clear. So in that sense, Hebrews 1:14 can be understood to apply to those who are in Christ, because they are heirs of salvation.

Second, as to the question of God’s providential care for those who are in Christ, we just don’t know how God works providentially to make things come out the way He wants them to come out. We know from the Old Testament that God works in providential ways—that is, ways in which He provides for His people. We know from Joseph’s statement in Genesis 50:20 (“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”) that God can sometimes work in ways that are outside our understanding and not in a way that is immediately recognizable as being God’s work and we refer to this as God’s providence. Such passages as Romans 8:28 (“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”) also bear record that God is working today in a non-miraculous but providential way. How all does God accomplish these things? We just don’t have the answers to those questions. Does

God use angels to carry out his providential will today? It would be within His power to do so. Does Hebrews 1:14 indicate this? In the specific sense of what is God’s providential work, I don’t know. I don’t know exactly what the specific duties of these angels are and what their ministry is per se. They work for God and they minister to the heirs of salvation. Does this involve God’s providence? Well, let me answer it this way. Whatever they are doing when serving God, it doesn’t go against God’s purposes for man’s salvation. So in that general sense, we could say that they are involved in God’s providence. But in this same general sense, WE are involved in God’s providence as well when we are obedient to God and do His will in our lives. The bottom line is this; we should not look to God’s providence outside of what He says that He is going to do through His word. Faith still comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17) and without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The implication is that without hearing the word of God it is impossible to please God.

The bottom line in answer to this question is this: In a general sense, everyone who obeys God is working within God’s providence. So the answer to the question is, Yes, this passage can be understood as being part of God’s providence in that sense, but in the specific sense of does God give specific instruction for angels to carry out in regard to helping and protecting the heirs of salvation? I don’t think we have enough information to answer that question. And if we don’t have the information, it isn’t by faith that we can believe something like that.

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Bud Moore is in room 224 at Navarro Regional with pneumonia.

Gwen Culwell is staying with her daughter, Libby Harris, while she recovers. That address is on page 3.

Buster Hayes is staying with his daughter in Kerens. That address is also on page 3.

Patty Williams was scheduled for surgery Wednesday, but it has been postponed.

Our Love & Sympathy are extended to Gayle & Christine Garner at the passing of Gayle's aunt.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Melba Bower, Buster Hayes, Marjorie King, Neta Marshall, Velma M'Dougald, Bud Moore, Darlyn Olsen, Henry & Eula Parrish, Kathi Pruitt, Paula Spillyards, Meagan Gould, Jayme Schafer, Keith Weaver

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Announcements

We Rejoice that Jose Sosa was baptized into Christ Wednesday evening! We've included his address on page 3, if you'd like to send a note.

We Also Rejoice with the Horns. Their grandson, Cameron Bates, was baptized Sunday evening. His family are members at Waxahachie. If you'd like to send a note, his address is on page 3.

"Dear Westhill Family, Darrell and I want to thank all of you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and the food. Everything was such a huge help and appreciated so much!" We love all of you, Darrell & Darlyn

"We want to thank our church family for all your concerns and most of all your prayers over the years for my sister Barbara Wrinkle, and Charlotte's "Aunt B." Thanks to all the ladies who prepared our delicious dinner and all the servers who helped. It meant so much." In Christian Love, Sandy Perryman & Charlotte Weaver

"To the Westhill Church Family, Thank you for preparing the lunch for our family on the day of mom's (Barbara Wrinkle) funeral. She loved all of

you so much and she missed you greatly when we moved her to Waco. Your love and support through this difficult time are much appreciated." In Christian Love, Belinda Acock, Joe Wrinkle, & Brenda Zimmerman

Jr. High & High School Devo TONIGHT after services in the Outreach Center. Boys bring chips, girls bring desserts.

Spring Seminar hosted by the Young at Heart Group on Friday, April 8 at 6:30 PM. Jay Lockhart will address the theme "Press On." Everyone invited!

Birthdays This Week

March 22 - Beverly Abercrombie
March 24 - Tyler Baumgartner

Next Week's Adult Class

John's Death and Jesus' Retreat
(Mat. 14:1-13; Mark 6:30-32; Luke 4:38-39; 9:10)

Records for March 13, 2016

Bible Class	162
AM Worship.....	217
PM Worship.....	132
Wednesday	146
Contribution	\$8,110.85

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Cory Myers
Opening Prayer	David Shastid
Communion Leader	James Olsen
Communion Servers	
Don Corley	David Dilbeck
Brian Hand	James Horn
Clay Jackson	Buck Murphy
Greg Olsen	Phil Pillans
George Schmidt	Dalton Shastid
Kyle Slaughter	Gene Steinkraus
Justin Williams	
Closing Prayer	Percell Milton
Nursery	Peyton Jennings & Sloane Slaughter
Security	Scott Barham, David Baumgartner, Mike Drain
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	Jose Sosa
PM Closing Prayer	Eric Olsen
Wed. Song Leader	Mark Blaylock
Wed. Devotional	Justin Williams
March Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228