

# The University Heights Messenger

February 27, 2011

## Avoiding The Exits

Isaiah 35:8 says, “And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.”

The other day I found myself merging onto Route 4 from Nicholasville Road on the way home. I noticed that between Nicholasville Road and Georgetown Road there are a total of four exits. I could have gotten off at any of them and found my way home but it would have caused my drive to be substantially longer.

It caused me to consider the number of exits off the Highway of Holiness and back into the world. The difference is that to get to my eternal home I’m going to have to stop right in the middle of the road, turn back around, and drive myself right back up that off ramp to get where I belong. You see, there is no detour or series of back roads that can lead me to heaven if I have chosen to leave the Highway of Holiness. That Highway is the only way home and it is a straight and narrow road.

Unfortunately, it is a Highway that has been left far behind by many Christians. In fact, some have gotten so lost on the twisting, winding roads of the world that they would have incredible difficulty finding their way back to the Highway even if they were inclined to do so. Certainly they have a roadmap, but it is a roadmap whose directions require sacrifice and selflessness (Mark 8:34-37). Satan’s twisting, winding roads simply do not cultivate those attributes. When one drives with Satan in the passenger seat for so long it becomes very difficult to think and act differently than he has trained them to think and act (James 3:14-16).

Let us consider some of the exits to be avoided. What about **the exit of career**? Of

course, a man must work (2 Thess 3:10; 1 Tim 5:8). Yet this can be taken too far. When a Christian begins to put all or the best of his resources into his work (time, money, energy, focus, enthusiasm, loyalty) then he necessarily takes it away from God and the church. This Christian will begin to consistently miss worship services because he’s working or because he’s just too tired from working to attend. His interest in the Lord’s work wanes and drags. He’ll gladly discuss how things are going at work, enthusiastically describing new projects and future plans, but his eyes begin to glaze at talk of the Lord or His work. This man has left the King’s Highway.

Consider **the exit of family**. Recently we examined Ephesians 5:22-6:4 in a sermon. Clearly our family is to mean so much to us. However, Paul said that wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord, not *instead* of the Lord. We noted that Paul said husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, not *instead* of Christ and the church. We noted that Paul told children to obey their parents in the Lord, not *instead* of the Lord.

The simple truth is that we will not be saved if our relationship to our family members means more to us than our relationship to Jesus Christ (Matt 10:37; 12:46-50). Actions have always spoken louder than words so we can determine which relationship means more to us by what we do. Does the will of Christ or my family factor more in the determining of my plans? Am I more inclined to skip a worship service for a family outing or vice versa? Would I rather be with my family or with my Lord? The answers the Lord desires of us are obvious. However, the answers honesty demands of us may tell us that we’ve left the Highway.

What about **the exit of materialism**? So

many *things* in this world scream and shout for our attention. Let's not fool ourselves, this world has a lot to offer materially. In fact, at no point in human history has there been more *stuff* for Christians to crave. When the newest gadgets hit the shelves some Christians hearts do backflips and they simply *cannot* feel any sense of contentment until they possess it. If it means depriving the Lord of the money that would have gone to Him then so be it. Perhaps a new resort opens in an attractive vacation spot somewhere in the world and a Christian family knows that they just *have* to go. They don't really have the money for it so the Lord is simply going to have to wait His turn. If they can't give for a couple of months while they try to recover all the money they spent then God will simply have to understand.

Let us all rest assured that our God certainly *will* understand. He'll understand that He's not what's most important in our lives. He'll understand that we will not let Him compete with the things this world has to offer. He will expect us to understand in judgment why what we offered Him in life just wasn't good enough (Matt 19:16-23; Phil 3:7-11).

There are many more of these exits along our road. Let's avoid every one of them. The Highway of Holiness stretches out before us. Let's remain steady and take it all the way home.

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### IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

**Jeff Howerton** has begun outpatient therapy. This is a positive step and brings him a little closer to getting his life back to normal.

**Edith Tirey** continues to struggle with health concerns stemming from her bout with pneumonia.

**Robin Miller** has several stress fractures in her heel and will be in a hard cast for about ten weeks.

Adam Daniels' cousin, **Courtney Reeves**, child was born about two months premature. The child, **Aubree**, continues to receive treatment.

**Tabetha Lynn** (niece of Gina Seabolt's sister-in-law) continues to need our prayer after her car accident.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Vina Krassow, Tom Curtis, Shelly Stewart, Glyon Hill, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

The information meeting will be today at 5. The men will meet first at 3:30 with Jay Dixon.

Our Spring meeting with Mark McCrary is April 10-15

Remember the two special studies scheduled for March 5 and 26 at 10 AM.

### NEWS

Jo Ann and Stephanie Joseph have chosen to work and worship with us here at UHeights. Let's welcome them with open arms!

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

**Sun:** Gen 49-50, Ps 24, Mk 3

**Mon:** Ex 1, Ps 25, Mk 4

**Tue:** Ex 2-3, Ps 26, Mk 5

**Wed:** Ex 4-5, Ps 27, Mk 6

**Thu:** Ex 6-7, Ps 28, Mk 7

**Fri:** Ex 8-9, Ps 29, Mk 8

**Sat:** Ex 10-11, Ps 30, Mk 9

### SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. "Once for all" 2  
(Galatians 1:6-10)

Sunday PM. Straining to please God  
(Philippians 3:12-16)