

# University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

December 7, 2008

## I Delight to Do Your Will

**Psalms 40: 8** *"I delight to do your will, O my God: yes, your law [is] within my heart. 9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, you know. 10 I have not hid your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation: I have not concealed your lovingkindness and your truth from the great congregation."*

If we are going to please God we must as Jesus did "delight" to do God's will.

**Psalms 112:1** *"Praise you the LORD. Blessed [is] the man [that] fears the LORD, [that] delights greatly in his commandments."*

Whether or not we delight greatly in the commandments of the Lord has a whole lot to do with how we view them in our mind. If we understand the commandments of the Lord to be instructions for success from the Creator of the heaven and earth, we will delight to do them. When we see the commandments of God as a way to please God we do delight greatly to know them and to do them. We study and remember them and we tell them to others so that they too can know and obey. That is God's plan.

**Matthew 28:19** *"Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the world. Amen."*

**Acts 8:1** *"And Saul was consenting to his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles."*

**Acts 8: 4** *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."*

The attitude of delight is not expressed in "Do I have to do what God says?" The attitude of delight is expressed in "Thank God I have been given the opportunity to do what God says."

The teachings of the faithful apostles of Jesus that are recorded in the New Testament are God's will for humankind today. Obeying the New Testament only makes a person a Christian only, not some special kind of Christian but just a Christian in the New Testament definition of the word "Christian." In obedience to the New Testament local groups of Christians, form local churches of Christ like the local church at Jerusalem or the local church at Antioch where the disciples of Christ were first called Christians. When the proper level of spiritual maturity is reached certain men are appointed to be overseers and approved servants in a local church, as was the case at Philippi. **(Philippians 1:1)**

In the New Testament all of this is very strait forward and simple. There is no organizational structure on earth beyond a local church. On earth there are no layers of authority outside of the local church. On earth a local church is as big as organizational structure gets, according to the New Testament. Each local church is governed directly by Jesus Christ, through the New Testament. Each local church is responsible for its own support and for its own teaching. In the New Testament no church is in charge of any other church. When people realize that is the way God wished for the churches of Christ to be great things can happen. When the New Testament alone is followed in religion it leads people away from all of the unscriptural things there are. That happened in the past right here in this county. People realized that their obligation to God was to obey the New Testament. When they realized that they allowed the New Testament to lead them away from all of the paraphernalia of the religions of this world, back to the direct and straightforward religion taught in the first century AD by the inspired apostles of Jesus. Gone were all of the human creeds, human traditions, candles, robes, multiplied offices, layers of authority, unscriptural doctrines, special days, instrumental music and everything else not found taught in the New Testament. This happens every time people of good and honest heart anywhere realize that in order to please God what they must do is obey the New Testament only. First they become Christians only, according to the New Testament definition of Christians, by personally obeying the message recorded in the New Testament. Then they begin to assemble together to eat the Lord's supper, give as prospered, study the inspired word of God, sing and pray. They become a local church, according to the definition of "church" found in the New Testament. They are a local body of repentant, baptized believers. That local church is able to do everything that God intends for a local church to do. Eventually as they grow in Bible knowledge and spiritual maturity they will appoint from among their number certain men to be overseers of that local church, and others to be approved servants. Wherever the New Testament goes people become Christians and as those Christians continue to study and obey the New Testament churches of Christ come into existence. The word of God is the seed of the kingdom of God. **(Luke 8:10-15)**

This has happened again and again and again across the face of the earth for the last two thousand years. But then guess what happens? Some begin to lose their delight in just doing what the New Testament reveals is the will of God and look elsewhere for patterns of religion. Or perhaps, like Simon the sorcerer **(Acts 8:18-24)** they have unchanged wrong ideas from their former religious activities that they begin to suggest. Others may be spiritual children taken advantage of by cunning false teachers.

**Ephesians 4: 14** *"That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"*

Over time obeying the New Testament only loses its appeal to the majority of people simply because the things that they really like in religion are not part of the New Testament pattern. To do those things that they greatly delight in you must leave the New Testament pattern and so they leave the New Testament pattern in order to do what they greatly delight in.

Faithful Christians and faithful churches have always been constantly under pressure to move away from the New Testament to more popular religious practices. In order to successfully resist the pressure we must greatly delight to do God's revealed will.

## Remember To Pray For

Dallis and Alma Isaacs  
Francis Nations  
Bill Baker  
Mary Jane Frost  
Melanie Bilye  
Rick Shamas  
Bonnie Wells  
Sarah Phillips  
David Alford  
Carol Bach  
Marian Lyda  
Edith Tirey  
Lucy Hale  
Pamela Clayton  
Ella Wells, and her family  
Lorene Pagan  
Freddie Ward  
David and Chessie Harwell  
Donna Caldwell  
Mabel Greene  
Tony Tyree  
Ruth Brundige  
Cindy Miller  
Christie Ellis  
Shirley Lewis  
Brady Gibbons  
Gail Hunter  
Larry Flannery  
Donnie Joseph  
Cheryl Spear  
Lanny Hiller  
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox  
Helen Stephens  
Chris Handshoe  
Jeffrey Howerton  
Addison Pervine  
Carl Stripplehoff  
Tom Kemp  
Freda Blakey

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If I am not willing to obey God's word I  
am not willing to be saved by God

Sin is not an option  
So ignorance of God's word is not an  
option

Sinful solutions are not really solutions

Temptation is an opportunity for me to  
demonstrate how much I love God

If someone I love attempts to influence me  
to disobey God it is an opportunity for me  
to demonstrate how much I love God

If I cannot think of anything to do but sin  
I must keep on thinking before I do

Why is it that most of the most visible  
characteristics of modern religions are not  
found in the New Testament?

If we are not supposed to obey the New  
Testament why do we have it?

## Thoughts

Becoming a Christian requires a complete mental overhaul. Like a child a person needs to learn everything all over again but this time from God's word

**Luke 18: 16** "*But Jesus called them [to him], and said, Suffer little children to come to me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 17 Verily I say to you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.*"

We are born of the water and the Spirit.

**John 3: 5** "*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say to you, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*"

Our transformation into a new person is the result of the New Testament, inspired word of God changing our thinking, our definitions, our language, our values, our activities, our religious practices, our outlook, our hopes, our dreams, our aspirations, our self image, our likes, our dislikes, our occupations, our reading, our viewing, our eating, our drinking and every other part of us from what God is not pleased with to what God is pleased with.

**1Peter 1: 22** "*Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit to unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that you] love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever.*"

God intends for my relationship with Him to be a complete makeover.

**Romans 12:1** "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

The children of God must expect pressure to conform to this world, to the world's ideals, to the world's religions, to the world's recreations, to the world's values, to the world's goals and everything else. In some cases God's word allows us to hold some of the same views on some things that the world holds and still please God, but we must hold those views because of what God's word says, not because of what the world says. It must be God's book, not the world that tells us what to do.

## Notes

Men's business meeting will be  
next Sunday at 2:30PM

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In the Holy Bible both Old and New  
Testaments

The emphasis is on  
Pleasing God

In the religions of humans the  
emphasis is on  
Pleasing humans

To be wise or to be foolish is  
"Just a matter of judgement"

To be wise is to use good judgement  
and to be foolish is to use bad  
judgement

But both are

"Just a matter of judgement"

Wise people give special attention in  
considering

"Matters of judgement"

My judgement needs to further God's  
will in myself and in others

What is not true is not right

It is never anything but wrong to do  
wrong

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

### Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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## University Heights Church of Christ

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE  
AND WORSHIP WITH US

HELP GOD'S WORD GROW  
LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT