

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

June 8, 2008

Drifting

When conditions are proper there are very few things that beat drifting. On a fine warm sunny day when the birds are singing, there is a little breeze and you have time to just be there with no schedule, drifting along with the gentle current of a quiet stream is very easy to take. As long as it is going your way or you really do not care where you go or when you get there you can without effort let the current do it all. The major problem with drifting is that it offers no options. We cannot drift straight across the current, nor can we drift upstream against the current. Where drifting really does not work at all is where moral or spiritual values are involved. When it comes to pleasing God drifting is out of the question. God sets the course and we must follow it against whatever opposition we face.

In serving God there is a constant battle to move against contrary influences both from inside and from outside of our being. The Bible assures us that we have **an adversary that must be steadfastly resisted**. **1Peter 5: 8** "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*" **James 4: 7** "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" Continuing to constantly resist the devil's efforts to influence us to stop serving God acceptably is a major part of what the godly are forced to do in living in flesh on this earth. At the time each of us became a Christian we became aware of that need to resist the influence of Satan in our lives. We rejoiced in the fact that by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ we could not only resist the devil but gain victory over his evil influence in our lives. We rejoiced in and were thankful for the great blessing that God had given us in revealing His will to us and by that allowing us to serve Him in a manner that pleased him. We read and studied His inspired word in order to discover how to better please Him day by day. Our major focus was on God and how we might better serve Him. That is as it should be always in our relationship with God. As a human being on earth my major emphasis must be on how I may better serve God.

Here in Fayette County Kentucky in pioneer times the gospel began to be preached with great effectiveness. Religious debates were held that generated great interest. In one held in downtown Lexington Henry Clay acted as a moderator. Many believed and obeyed the teachings of the New Testament. Numerous churches were started. More people were converted. A Bible college was started here in Lexington. Its first president was a prominent and widely recognized Bible scholar and faithful gospel preacher. Many of the churches came to count the rich and famous among their members. It would appear that the word of God was growing and prospering greatly in Fayette County from pioneer times until about 1920. By 1937 there was not a single church in the entire county that was standing for the truth taught in the New Testament. Most of the churches are still here to this day and so is the Bible College but none of them stand for the truth. The gospel preachers of past days could not preach in those churches or teach in that Bible College today because the truth from the New Testament is no longer acceptable in those places. So, what happened? There was a change in focus.

There was a subtle shift of emphasis from God to me. At conversion the focus was on what pleased God. My rejoicing flowed out from the marvelous fact that I could have the glorious opportunity to discover God's will and do it. I perceived that understanding and doing God's will was the most honorable of blessings in which I shared with Jesus Christ and the apostles of the first century AD. My focus was, as was theirs, on the blessing of obeying the revealed will of the Eternal, Only True and Living God. One of the most universal human problems among believers is that without conscious effort to resist it happening, the focus of my religious practice will turn from God to me. Obeying the revealed will of God will no longer be the most important thing. The most important thing will become how I feel, whether I am happy, unhappy, stimulated, bored, made proud or embarrassed and what will make me happier. I will stop minding things of the spirit and begin to mind earthly things. I will cut loose from the inspired word of God and begin to drift in the ever-changing stream of what I like what makes me happy and what impresses the religious people of the world. Very soon I will begin to be ashamed to be identified with those who insist on speaking where and as the Bible speaks. I will perceive them as the world perceives them. The world and I will see them as unnecessarily inhibited overly zealous mentally unbalanced religious fanatics.

If I begin to drift there will be questions that I will no longer ask myself. What have I learned about God's revealed will today? What have I done with what I know about God's revealed will today? Have I stopped doing something or started doing something or taught something because of what I have learned today about God's revealed will?

When I am drifting I will become ashamed to let my friends know I attend a faithful church of Christ because I believe they will make fun of me because faithful churches are so different from the churches of the world. I will want the church to make changes to impress my worldly friends and make me feel good because the church has become the kind of church that the religious world is impressed with. I will want the church to put on a display that a worldly-minded person will not only be comfortable with, but also thrilled and amused by. I will want to reconcile the church with the "good sense and balanced judgement" of the world so that the church will get the religious world's approval and I will no longer feel ashamed for my worldly friends, colleagues and kinfolk to know that I am a member of the church. All of this has to do with pleasing me, and none of it has to do with carefully obeying the teachings of the New Testament. All of this appeals to me because I have become a drifter. In the practice of my religion I have lost my first love and am now simply going through the motions. I do not teach my friends and associates sound doctrine because I do not trouble myself to know sound doctrine. I measure nothing by the Bible and everything by my own feelings. If I feel good surely God must also feel good, no matter what the New Testament says. And so I drift away from the New Testament because it feels good to drift, just peacefully drift with all of the friendly people who are drifting. Do not let anybody rock the boat, just drift in peace. Drifting eventually killed every faithful church in Fayette County Kentucky and it can do it again in our lifetime if we are satisfied to drift. **WE MUST NOT DRIFT!**

Remember to Pray For

Lori Dailey and her family in the death of Lori's mother, Nancy Varley
Ruth Brundige Richard's mother
Cindy Miller, Rob's mother
Jonathan Nations
Marlene Wood
Matt York
Glen Seabolt
Christie Ellis
Janie Smith
Shirley Lewis
Brady Gibbons
Carla Ward
Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Alexa Anne Harper
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Roselyn Agyare
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox in Mexico
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe continues to be very ill.
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer
John Scholtz in Africa

The Kingdom of God grows by Christians telling the truth they know to whomever wants to listen **Acts 8:4**

Guided by an angel Philip the evangelist went thirty miles or more on foot to preach the word to one man. **Acts 8:26-38** Was a one-man audience that important? Obviously God thought so. He sent Ananias to Saul of Tarsus. **Acts 9:10-19**

1Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

**TO SPREAD IT
LIVE IT AND EXPLAIN IT**

Thoughts

Luke 6: 66 "From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus to the twelve, Will you also go away?"

It has always been true that those who follow Jesus for the wrong reason will soon go away. There is one right reason to follow Jesus. Simon Peter stated it.

John 6: 68 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God."

The twelve stayed after the others left because the twelve were there for the right reason in the first place. As long as they followed for that reason they would stay with Jesus because Jesus will always be the Christ and Jesus will always have the words of eternal life.

A number of years ago there was a small church here in town that from time to time would have a special day. I do not remember what they called their special day, but on those occasions they would have a big picnic on the grounds with plenty of fried chicken, iced tea and lemonade. I was told that at times they would have as many as 250 people gather to devour the fried chicken and other goodies. After the goodies were gone about 210 or more of those people were gone and they did not show up again until the next time the goodies were back. The actions of those people suggest that they came for fried chicken not for the words of eternal life. When the fried chicken and goodies were gone at that place they would go to wherever the fried chicken and goodies were available. Food for the belly was their desire, not salvation for the soul.

If they had come for the words of eternal life and found that those words were being preached and taught there they would have stayed; through good times and bad they would have stayed. It has always been so, and so will it always be.

Those who value Jesus as the Christ and value His teachings as the words of eternal life are willing to stay with Jesus and the truth of His teachings. Those who do not value Jesus as the Christ and His teachings as the words of eternal life will go away from Jesus and His truth seeking what they value. That is the travel plan of every digression away from Jesus and the truth of His teachings.

Will I go away from Jesus and from the truth taught in the New Testament? It depends on what I am here for. If I am here for the truth I will stay as long as the truth is here. If I am here for something else and this church remains faithful to Jesus and to His teachings I will go away.

1Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks [be] to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Notes

The men's business is today at
4:00PM

**MY ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD IS
THE HEART OF MY SERVICE TO
GOD**

1Peter 3: 15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer"

Colossians 3: 16 "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 the Lord. 17 And whatsoever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Ephesians 5: 19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Acts 5:41 "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

Acts 16: 25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises to God: and the prisoners heard them."

**THINKING RIGHT IS THE HEART OF
DOING RIGHT**

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

University Heights Church of Christ

445 Columbia Avenue

Lexington, Kentucky 40508

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**