

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

NOTE

Jared Sells has identified with
the congregation here at
University Heights. We are
excited to work and worship
with him. Let us welcome him
to the family with open arms
and encourage him just as he
will encourage us.

“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry”

*“And Peter said, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in
the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...’”*

The word translated “for” in Acts 2:38 is the Greek
word *eis*. This tricky little preposition has been the
battleground for much debate and argument. Those opposing
the purpose of baptism as set forth in Scripture tell us that the
word means “because of” rather than “unto” or “in the
direction of.” Thus, they have Peter command the people to be
baptized *because* their sins had already been forgiven. This is
how I suggest you deal with this argument.

Do not play the scholar game with them. While you
can compile countless scholars showing that the word means
“unto”, they will find an equal number of scholars opposed to
the necessity of baptism claiming it means “because of”. This
becomes an argument of scholarly credentials and leads
nowhere.

Ask them to turn to Matthew 26:28. *For this is my
blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the
forgiveness of sins.* In the institution of the Lord’s Supper
Jesus used the identical phrase “*for the forgiveness of sins.*”
Ask them if Jesus means that He would shed his blood
because man was saved, or *so that* man could be saved? When
they give the obvious answer, ask why the identical phrase
means something entirely different in Acts 2:38? This is often
quite effective.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

NEW: Rhonda Boyd’s surgery to put in a stint last
Wednesday went very well. Let us thank God and recall the
power of prayer.

OTHERS: Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson,
Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina
Krissow, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson,
Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit,
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Wilma Lawson, Jannett’s mother and
stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Lyn
Kincaid, Bernard Larch

University Heights Messenger

Volume 6--Number 47

October 26, 2014

“To Fulfill All Righteousness”

By Adam Litmer

A question has been asked about Matthew 4:13-15. The passage reads as
follows: *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by
him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and
do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is
fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.*

The questioner wishes to understand the phrase that serves as the title for
this article. In what way did the baptism of Jesus serve to fulfill all righteousness,
particularly considering that John’s baptism was “for repentance” (Matthew 3:11a)
and Jesus did not have any sins to repent of? Good question!

To begin answering this question I think that it would be wise to remind us
of the origin of John’s baptism. Did he come up with the idea all on his own and
implement it through his own planning? Or, did John’s baptism originate
somewhere else entirely? Jesus implies the answer quite clearly at a later time in
the midst of a discussion with his adversaries. *And when he entered the temple, the
chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and
said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this
authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you a question, and if you tell
me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The
baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they
discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to
us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid
of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus,
“We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority
I do these things.”* (Matthew 21:23-27). The obvious answer is that John’s baptism
originated from heaven. This means that God Himself designed John’s baptism.
Because all of God’s commands are right (Psalm 119:172), Jesus was willing to
receive a baptism that came from His Father. Indeed, it was only fitting that He do
so.

Pursuing this line of reasoning a bit further, consider what it said of the Pharisees and lawyers from Luke 7:28-30. *I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)* Because John's baptism originated in heaven, it was God's purpose that his people receive it. While many did, the Pharisees and the lawyers refused. Their refusal amounted to rejecting God's purpose for themselves. Because God created John's baptism, all of God's commands are right, and it was His purpose that His people receive it, Jesus was happy to submit himself to the will of the Father.

Undoubtedly there is more that could be said about this. Though Jesus had no sin to repent of we know that he would "become sin" so that the saved might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is quite possible that in receiving John's baptism, which was a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, the Father intended the Son to identify himself with man's sins even though he personally committed none. We need also bear in mind that the Holy Spirit descended and remained upon Jesus at his baptism. That event, visible to John, was to serve as the great identifying sign marking Jesus as the Messiah (John 1:29-34).

At the end of the day we can put all of these thoughts together and learn that it was the will of the Father that John baptize Jesus. In doing the Father's will Jesus fulfilled all righteousness.

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

By John Thompson

Perhaps the most recognizable part of the American Declaration of Independence are these words: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* While all may not agree on exactly what constitutes a right endowed by the Creator, most folks recognize that a government ought to not deprive its citizens of those three things.

But let's examine life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from a spiritual standpoint. Spiritual life is not a right guaranteed to everyone by God, the Creator. However, it is abundantly attainable and promised to those who meet God's conditions. Jesus said, in John 10:9-11, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the*

good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Jesus had eternal life in mind when He spoke those words. He said, in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Salvation and eternal life are abundantly available to those who obey. *"And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him."* (Hebrews 5:9)

Spiritual liberty and freedom are also blessings promised to the faithful. Liberty is a grand theme running throughout the Bible. Spiritual liberty results when one is forgiven of his or her sins. When one becomes a Christian, the transformation from a worldly focused being to a spiritually minded being is liberating beyond all understanding. *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:17) *"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."* (Galatians 5:1) *"For you were called to freedom, brothers."* (Galatians 5:13) *"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."* (1 Peter 2:16)

The pursuit of happiness seems to consume much of people's time and energy. Sports, vacations, amusement parks, games, recreation, materialism, city nightlife are just a few of the things that the world declares are essential to one's happiness. Although those things do provide a modicum of carnal pleasure, that pleasure and its associated happiness last no time at all. Nor are they to be sought after by the godly person. We look to Moses as our example with regard to worldly pleasure because he chose *"rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."* (Hebrews 11:25) But God provides the means to permanent happiness, happiness that is independent of life's circumstances. *"Blessed (happy) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."* (Psalm 1:1-2) Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11, *"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."*

God's people have life: spiritual life, that is, eternal life. God's people have liberty: freedom from sin and liberty to live a godly life. God's people pursue true and lasting happiness by taking God at His word and trusting Him in all of life's circumstances.