

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

“Do You Understand What You Are Reading?”

Romans 6:12

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.”

Romans 6 is a magnificent chapter that shows us how our relationship to sin has changed. Where once we were enslaved to it we have been set free. This freedom is had when one symbolically follows the Lord in his death, burial, and resurrection. This is done in the waters of baptism (6:1-6).

Verses 12-14 serve as a summation of verses 1-11. Yet verse 12 mentions something rarely discussed in studies of this passage. Why do you suppose Paul added the word “mortal” before “body?”

I believe there is great significance to the word “mortal” in this place. It calls to mind the body’s mortality; that it will weaken, fail, and finally die. Paul’s point is this: why cater to the sinful passions of that which is destined to die? Our spirits will go on and we will all inhabit resurrected bodies (we cannot speak of these bodies in detail. See 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 John 3:2). Yet the body we inhabit now, *as it is now*, is exceedingly temporary. Why let the passions of that which is so fleeting determine the final outcome of that which is eternal? So, let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

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, Bernard Larch, Burnice Richardson, Ann Chrusiel, Janett Brundige’s mother, Ruth Poynter, Janice Parsons

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Have You Been Reminded Yet?

Adam Litmer

Thursday morning my daily Bible reading led me to Job 38. In that chapter God, having listened to Job’s efforts at justifying himself while simultaneously leveling an accusing finger heavenward (40:2, 8), finally chose to respond. He did not offer a single explanation as to why Job’s troubles came upon him. Instead, He reminded Job of precisely who He (God) was. By the time we come to the end of Job 41, it is an understatement to say that Job had been thoroughly reminded. Take a moment to read Job’s final response to God in Job 42:1-6 to see a man whose thoughts concerning God had received a necessary adjustment.

In Job 38:22 Jehovah asks Job, *“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow?”* Neither Job nor we have ever entered that storehouse. That being said, we’ve sure seen an awful lot of its supply lately. When I read that question I glanced out the window where the snow was still falling heavily. My first thought was how much of a pain it was going to be to shovel all that snow. Then I started to think about it a little more deeply.

Despite all of the technology at our fingertips and all the advancements that humankind has made since the days of Job, a significant snowfall brings most of our lives to a screeching halt. I ventured out yesterday afternoon to check the roads (probably unwisely) and as I was half driving, half sliding along I noticed that almost every restaurant was closed, many of the small stores were closed, and there were nearly as many cars stuck as there were moving. School was canceled, Jackie and I won’t see any mail until probably Monday, and the local government offices are closed. Congregations across Kentucky canceled their mid-week Bible studies. The Antle’s canceled the Thursday study at their home and, as I sit here writing this thinking about my drive to the building this morning, I would not be at all surprised if tonight’s

singing service is canceled. We are entirely at the mercy of weather conditions. It truly can bring everything to a complete standstill.

God is the One who invented seasons and weather. He is the One who set them in their place and put them on a cycle. He created snow's storehouse and fills it. I did not my fair share of grumbling the last couple of days. Probably most of us did. When I was complaining I *should* have been paying attention. I *should* have been listening to creation because it was shouting at me to note God's power and be awed by it. I was slower than I should have been but eventually I was thoroughly reminded. What about you?

What Are You Full Of?

John Thompson

I have no doubt that hardly a day goes by that each one of us fails to utilize the concept of fullness in some way. Our everyday language has numerous expressions containing the idea of fullness, expressions which really come in handy quite often. For example, when asked to take on one more task, one might respond with, "I really cannot. My plate is so full these days." Or, in describing how one bested another in a debate, one might say, "I shot his argument full of holes." You might comment on how prideful someone is by saying, "She's just full of herself."

Did you notice the word "prideful" in the sentence above? We use the suffix "ful" to modify adjectives in order to communicate that the adjective is not just descriptive of its object, but very descriptive. Words such as joyful, harmful, resentful, graceful, and so many others we use everyday with little, if any, awareness of how much variety the concept of fullness adds to our ability to communicate.

Not only is the idea of fullness such a large part of our everyday communication, it is also an entirely biblical idea. A study of how the concept of fullness is used in the scriptures would be quite instructive and would spur one to put forth maximum effort to be full of that which pleases God. The remainder of this article will deal with just two qualities that the Christian is to be full of. These two qualities are comfort and joy. In 2 Corinthians 7 comfort and joy are presented, not as individual, stand-alone qualities, but rather as two facets of a state of mind essential for the Christian's spiritual success. In chapter 7, comfort and joy

play off of one another; as comfort increases, so does joy, which in turn adds to comfort. And the cycle continues on.

In his first letter to the Corinthian brethren, Paul had not minced words in condemning the many errors within that church. The tone of his second letter is quite different, however. Because of their positive response to his previous words of correction they have contributed much to his high level of comfort and the fullness of his joy. He says in verse 4, "*I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.*" Can any of us say that we are filled with comfort, we who are so prone to dramatize the things that discomfort us? Would we be quick to attribute our comfort to our brethren in Christ, we who might very well be quicker to focus upon their weaknesses? Would we, even in spite of our afflictions, characterize ourselves as overflowing with joy? In order for there to be an overflow there must be a continuous in-pouring. It stands to reason that if the overflow is joy, then the in-pouring must also be joy. That is why Paul could write *in all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.*

Paul goes on, in 2 Corinthians 7, switching back and forth between comfort and joy and showing that the very same things that bring him comfort also fill him with joy. "*For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*" (verses 5-7)

Christians, more so than anyone else, ought to be people full of comfort and overflowing with joy. Are we?

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23)