

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

#### Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

### **Saying Goodbye To A Dear Friend**

It won't be long now. The binding in my Bible is coming undone and pages are starting to tear and fall out. Tape is fighting a losing battle. I'm going to have to purchase a new Bible. Honestly, it nearly brings a tear to my eye.

I suppose many would find that strange. We love to buy new things. The thought of new computers, phones, jewelry, furniture, clothes, and cars usually brings a smile of anticipation.

But my Bible is not just some thing to be replaced by a shiny new model. So much of myself is found in *my* Bible. I've experienced spiritual breakthroughs in *my* Bible. I know exactly where everything is on the page because of countless hours spent in *my* Bible. All the smudges, creases, and tears are like old friends. This is the Bible I preach from, teach from, study from, and read from. Not a day has gone by in all the years that I've had it where we did not spend some time together. When I finally purchase a new Bible it will be identical to *my* Bible. Soon, my worn Bible will be retired to my "Bible Shelf." Some notes will be transferred over to the new Bible, others will not. Eventually, the next Bible will become *my* Bible. But for now, I feel like I'm saying goodbye to a very dear friend.

Is this how you feel about *your* Bible? Have you spent so much time with it over the years that it has become one of your dearest friends? Do you know all its creases, smudges, folds, and tears? I hope so for that is exactly as it should be.

### **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, Ruth Poynter, Janice Parsons, Jim Spivey's father

# University Heights Messenger

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### **"This Time I Will Praise The Lord"**

Adam Litmer

One of the saddest portions of Scripture is found in Genesis 29:31-34. This is what is written there: *When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.*

It is difficult for me to imagine what Leah's life must have been like. She was given to a man who did not want her and married her only because he was deceived into doing so. Verse 30 of Genesis 29 states, *So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah.* Verse 31 shows us that as things stood at the time the situation was worse than Jacob merely loving her less than Rachel. Leah spoke of her affliction (verse 32), of being hated (verse 33), and of her husband not being attached to her (verse 34). Imagine living your life knowing that you were not wanted. How bad must the situation have been for Leah to look at the birth of her children, times that should have been filled with celebration and laughter, as something that might, *just might*, finally make her husband love her?

But then we come to verse 35 and the birth of another child. Be careful to note the difference in Leah's attitude here. *And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.* At the first Leah built her entire identity upon her husband's love, or lack thereof, for her. That was the thing that drove her and the one thing she desired above all else. As time went on a subtle, yet profound, shift took place in her thinking. *Her* affections shifted to God. She knew that even if Jacob did not love her, God did. Is it mere coincidence that this fourth son, Judah,

was the one through whom the covenant promises would finally be fulfilled (Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5)? I think not.

Though Leah's life is sad it was also blessed. Her husband did not provide the love she so obviously longed for, yet God provided for her immensely. When all was said and done Leah bore six sons and a daughter (30:17-21). I cannot help but wonder how many times, when Leah's heart was growing sorrowful, one of her children came charging in with laughter and a huge smile to fling his or her arms around Leah's waist and remind her just how much she was loved? Surely those times were many and cherished immensely.

Leah teaches me to number my blessings and cherish them. Even when the days are gloomy and life grows heavy blessings from God surround me. I need only open my eyes to them. We all have times when we feel underappreciated. Perhaps sometimes we even feel unloved. In such times we have only to consider our God and the innumerable ways in which He demonstrates His love to us every day. It is wonderful to have family and friends who love and appreciate us. Even so, let us learn from Leah not to build our identity upon the affection of our fellow humans, even one's we love mightily, but upon the affection of our God. Remember: "the love of God will never fail nor lose its glory till we see Him face to face!"

### **It Snowed Again**

John Thompson

Before the snow from the winter storm that occurred two weeks ago disappeared, we were treated to a repeat performance. If you read the bulletin article following that storm you might very well be thinking, "The points made concerning the power of God, His care and provision for our needs, and the beauty of His creation are all very worthwhile, but I really didn't need another record-breaking snow storm to stimulate a refresher course."

So, what are some additional positive lessons we can gain from this most recent winter wonder that has swooped down upon us less than three weeks before springtime arrives? These lessons all have to do with opportunity. What is there about a snowstorm that dovetails nicely with the idea of opportunity?

A snowstorm resets your priorities. You cannot drive away in your car unless you first clear the snow from your driveway. Clearing your own driveway is not the opportunity under consideration here, but clearing your elderly neighbor's driveway or sidewalk is. Galatians 6:10 says, *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.* We can become so busy that we fail to either recognize opportunities that come our way, or we sort of

categorically disallow them to disrupt the routines that we have so carefully constructed in order to fit everything in. Let us become better at seizing opportunities to do good.

A snowstorm provides the opportunity to practice the golden rule as expressed in Matthew 7:12, *So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.* So, as the weather reports become more ominous in their predictions, perhaps you think to yourself, "If I was low on food and couldn't get out to resupply, I wonder if anyone would check on me." That coming snowstorm is not the perfect opportunity for one to express what he would like to have done for him, but to actually do that very thing for someone else.

In Acts 27 and 28 we are treated to an act of kindness experienced by the Apostle Paul and many others that demonstrates the extraordinary goodness which humans are capable of when given the opportunity. Travelling by ship to Rome to be tried before Caesar, a severe storm lasting 14 nights was encountered. Finally, the boat wrecked and the occupants made it to shore on an island called Malta. Needless to say, Paul and his companions were at the limits of their misery. It would not have been out of the ordinary for the inhabitants of the island to have killed them all for whatever spoils were available. But Acts 28:2 says, *After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.* Colossians 3:12 describes the Christian in such a way that demands we be opportunistic. *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

Finally, a snowstorm, especially while the snow is furiously falling and accumulating in record time, is an opportunity for a quiet time with family and the Almighty. Outside activity is at a minimum; the weather report really does not need to be repeated every five minutes keeping us riveted to the television. What better opportunity to spend time with God's word could come along? *Blessed 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)