

**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)

#### NOTE

The congregational meeting is today at 5. If you are a member please make your plans to attend.

### **A Thought On Sacrifice**

This past week was one of sacrifice for many here at University Heights. It takes much effort for Christians who get off work in the later afternoon or early evening to make it to the assembly every night. We have several who did just that and others who had to make great efforts to get here the few nights they were able. I know you did not do it for recognition but please know that I recognize and appreciate your efforts. You encourage and edify me.

This gets me to thinking about sacrifice itself. It seems to me that you can tell a lot about a person by considering the things they are willing to make sacrifices for. For instance, in John 4 we find a weary Jesus (6) sacrificing much needed rest to evangelize to a woman and then an entire town. I've not always been willing to make such sacrifices, have you?

Have you ever let a minor complaint that would not have kept you from work, school, or a ballgame keep you from doing for the Lord? We've all wearied ourselves at our jobs or working around the house but have we ever wearied ourselves doing the Lord's work? If our employer would not accept, "My back was a little sore", or "I was tired" as an excuse for missing work is there a good reason to imagine the One who sacrificed His very own Son would?

For what are we willing to sacrifice? Let's think seriously about the answer. God is.

### **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, The Spivey family, the Dillard family, Donna Barnett, Cassie Neel

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 7--Number 15

April 12, 2015

### **The Age Of Redefinition**

Adam Litmer

It was in a restaurant some time ago where I first saw the sign, the message of which would become more pervasive than I could have imagined. The sign said, "If at first you don't succeed, redefine success." I probably chuckled a bit when I first read it before promptly forgetting about it the moment I looked at the menu. Little did I know that the act of redefining terms and ideas, particularly in the spiritual realm, would become so prevalent as the years progressed.

Today's "Christian" often has very little problem with taking a Bible term or principle and redefining it in a way that makes it a little more palatable. Humanism and political correctness have long held sway over a number of influential denominations and has moved them to redefine almost everything the Bible has to say. However, the desire to redefine truths considered unpleasant has certainly not left the Lord's church unscathed. Consider two redefining efforts that have and are continuing to be made.

**Love.** God shows us that Bible love is the active willingness to make the most extraordinary sacrifices for the well being of others (John 3:16). It is caring enough about the souls of people living in sin to not pretend they are secure when they are not and taking steps to retrieve them (Jude 22-23). It is obeying all of God's commands from a humble and thankful heart (1 John 5:2-3). It is unbreakable devotion to the Lord's truth and a determination to always speak it in love (Ephesians 4:15-16. This is loving the truth too much to pervert it, loving souls too much to hold back what they need to hear, and loving the Lord too much to change any part of his word).

Man says that Bible love is accepting every person as they are and celebrating their choices for how to live their lives, regardless of what those choices might be. Acceptance and affirmation are emblazoned upon their streaming banners. Man has redefined God's biblical description of love and made it sickeningly shallow. The same word is used in ways God never used it. Indeed, this redefinition of love changes the very nature of the love God described in Scripture.

**Grace.** God shows us in the Bible that His grace is everything He does for us that we cannot do for ourselves (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is the ultimate expression of

God's mercy and love and manifested itself in the fullest sense in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-7). It is designed to train us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passion, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age (Titus 2:11-12). They receive it in vain who refuse to be trained by it (2 Corinthians 6:1). If it is not responded to correctly than it can be fallen from, which is the equivalent of being severed from Christ (Galatians 5:4).

Man turns the grace of God into the ultimate license to sin. He says that God's grace is so big, so all consuming, that a Christian (another Bible word often drastically redefined by man) may engage in sinful activity as often as he'd like without any fear of divine judgment. Forsake the assembly, be dishonest, live selfishly, drink heavily, abuse drugs, neglect family obligations, teach and promote false doctrine. None of it really matters because God's grace covers it all as He offers a grandfatherly smile and a mild "Now, now." Take just a moment to read Jude 4 and all of Romans 6 (esp. verses 1 and 15) to see how perverted this incredibly popular "understanding" of God's grace is.

Beloved, "calling Bible things by Bible names" is not enough. Truly, it never *has* been enough. Love and grace are certainly "Bible things" and the terms themselves are obviously "Bible names", but *unless they are defined in God's ways* it will *always* result in mistakes or outright error. Speaking as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11) requires more than merely borrowing the language of Scripture. The Bible terms "Christian", "saint", "repentance", "sanctification", "hell", "judgment", and countless others are falling victim to our culture of redefinition every day. Even (perhaps especially?) "God" has not remained unscathed. Of course, redefining God's terms and ideas does not actually change them for God is the One who established them and He doesn't change. However, redefining God's terms and ideas leads to all manner of confusion and error. It also leads to condemnation.

So beloved, call Bible things by Bible names. Just make sure that you're defining them in God's way.

### **The Words That We Choose To Use**

John Thompson

Our language is filled with words having to do with speaking too hastily. Here is a sampling of those words or expressions: divulge, [dump on](#), finger, leak, rat on, snitch, sound off, spill the beans, spit out, squeal, unload, vent, weasel, blurt out, babble, blather, give away, run off at the mouth, talk through one's hat. The sheer number and rich variety of such expressions indicates that human beings spend a lot of time in a multitude of situations speaking without thinking.

Most of the times that we speak too hastily we do so under the influence of strong emotion, with anger being the biggest culprit and pure hatred being a close second. We

live in a country in which one of the foundational freedoms is that of free speech. This freedom, like all of our constitutional liberties, is not a license to say whatever we want to say whenever and wherever we want to say it without penalty or consequence. Freedom of speech is a blessing, granted by God in His creative action, not bestowed by elected officials. We're fortunate to live in a country that supports what God has given us. This being true, one might conclude that we would be more careful in our speech, for it is not our government that will ultimately hold us accountable, but God Himself. It seems to me if we had a better track record of our speech being directed by our reason rather than our emotions, even our government would not have felt the need to legislate against hate speech and pushed a "politically correct" agenda.

Let's review some of the principles of free speech given by God in His word.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.* (Proverbs 18:21)

*An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will escape from trouble. A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.* (Proverbs 11:13-14)

*A fool's lips bring strife, And his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his ruin, And his lips are the snare of his soul.* (Proverbs 18:6-7)

*He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.* (Proverbs 21:23)

*He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; He has violated his covenant. His speech was smoother than butter, But his heart was war; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.* (Psalm 55:20-21)

*The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.* (Isaiah 50:4)

*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.* (Ephesians 4:29)

*You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. "The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.* (Matthew 12:34-37)