

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)

#### Update

Donna Barnett, who had been  
on our prayer list for some  
time, passed away this past  
Monday evening. The family  
is grateful for our prayers and  
will continue to need them as  
they mourn her loss.

### **Feeling Sorry For Ourselves**

Do you ever feel sorry for yourself? As I sit here writing this I have been fighting a cold since Monday and losing. Though the end is in sight I'm sitting here hacking and coughing and just not feeling very good. I have thrown a few pity parties this past week and felt rather sorry for myself more than once. Over a cold. Just a cold. *Nothing worse than a cold.*

Someone's always got it harder, don't they? How many, facing real sickness and disease, would love for a cold to be the worst of their concerns?

But the real problem with feeling sorry for ourselves is that it tends to keep us from growing spiritually. Everything is seen through that self-pitying lens, even the Scriptures, and it makes it very hard to get our focus where it should be. Prayers can become complaint sessions; those who simply need someone to listen to their struggles are sometimes forced to sit through all of ours. That's unfortunate.

Paul said, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us* (Romans 8:18). What a wonderful thought to keep in mind, especially when we don't feel very good!

### **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, 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, Cassie Neel

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 7--Number 18

May 3, 2015

## **“You've Turned The Bible Into An Idol!”**

Adam Litmer

I heard the above accusation a couple of weeks ago. It's not the first time that I have heard it. The handful of times that it has been made in my presence it has always been made by the same sort of person desiring the same sort of thing: a “Christian” who wants to do something God did not authorize and claim that it is to His glory and praise. Upon reminding them that *faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ* (Romans 10:17), and that Jesus said, *The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day*” (John 12:48), I have on occasion been informed that the one to whom I speak has pledged allegiance to Jesus Christ, not to the Bible. I am rebuked for turning the Bible into an idol rather than loving and following the Lord.

In the past many of us have begun our response to such accusations with something like this: “Well, we certainly don't won't turn the Bible into an idol, but...,” and then proceed to emphasize the need to do what the Lord has said He wants. I won't begin my response in that way any longer. Indeed, the more often I've heard the accusation and the more I've thought about its implications, the more convinced I am that the possibility of turning the Bible into an idol *does not exist*.

Consider: take the Bible out of the equation and explain the personality of God. Without the Bible explain God's plan to save man from his sins. Without the Bible tell me about Jesus Christ; explain to me the things that he taught and did. Without the Bible teach me about the resurrection and why it is significant. Without the Bible explain to me how to become a Christian and what it means for my life. Without the Bible tell me how God desires to be worshipped. Without the Bible explain the hope of the faithful saint. Do

you see the point here? Without the Bible we would know nothing about God (save what is revealed by creation). We would know nothing of Jesus or the Holy Spirit. We would have no concept of the church. We would have no idea what the Creator desires of us. We would know nothing about Heaven or Hell. There would be no Christianity for man could never have come up with it on his own (1 Corinthians 1:18-31).

Do you see the utter ridiculousness in the claim, “I have pledged my allegiance to Christ, not the Bible”? Such a statement, at its very heart, means “I have pledged my allegiance to Christ, not what He says.” One might as well say that they love a painter, but not what he paints. Or one could say that they love an author, but not what he writes. Jesus said, *If you love me, you will keep my commandments* (John 14:15). Without the Bible, explain the commandments of Jesus Christ. To pledge loyalty to the Bible *is* to pledge loyalty to God for it is comprised of His words to man (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In the final analysis the one who charges the saint with turning the Bible into an idol is simply trying to do what self proclaimed Christians have been attempting for centuries—selfishly do whatever they want to do, satisfy their own appetites and emotions, without feeling bound by that which God has revealed. By the way, ask them to read Psalm 119 and ask them why God inspired David to write a psalm all about love for and devotion to the written revelation of God. I suppose if they had been there at the time they would have sought to put an end to David’s idolatry. *Let God be true though everyone were a liar!* (Romans 3:4a)

### **Applying God’s Word**

Robert Turner

For thirty years I have preached and written my convictions concerning the Bible, the church, etc.; and for thirty years people have “disagreed.” Catholics, Mormons, Protestants, and occasionally my brethren, “disagree.” That doesn’t bother me—much. At least not enough to cause me to squelch my honest convictions.

Sometimes one disagrees, and proceeds to teach me more perfectly the way of truth. I find I have been wrong. Now I dislike being wrong, but not as

much as I dislike teaching error. Changing to the truth is a pleasure, and I am grateful to my teacher.

Thirty years of disagreement has taught me something else. Some people say they “disagree” when in reality they know so little about the subject they can’t explain their own position and know even less about mine. Perhaps they were born in the objective mood and the kickative case; or more likely, I have pointed out the error of their ways, and they want to keep on going the way they are going, regardless of truth or consequences.

Honest disagreement, based upon convictions established through careful study of God’s Word, is honorable. I can respect such disagreement even when I am reasonably sure my opponent is in error. Two such persons can study together to profit—and will be anxious to do so.

But there is no honor, and I have little respect for the person who seeks to discredit my work with prejudicial name-calling or the glib use of the weight-swinging “I disagree.”

You “disagree” with WHAT? Is there a fallacy in my reasoning? Have I misused the Scriptures? Have I overlooked some Bible truth that would alter my conclusions? Give me a *specific* point of disagreement and I will be happy to consider it.

A fellow once said that all I had written was true (he flattered me) but that he feared it would *lead* to error. What!?! Truth never leads to anything but truth. To fear the consequences of truth is cowardice of the first order, and our disagreement is with God. Let such a one rather fear Hell.

*This article was written by Robert Turner and can be found in the May, 1965 issue of Plain Talk. More than a decade ago I recall speaking to a “Christian” man and woman who were considering getting married yet had no right to do so. I read them the Lord’s words from Matthew 19:9. Their only response was, “We disagree.” What more can be said after that? It takes courage to accept the teaching of Scripture. Let our first loyalty be to it even above self or those we love. (AL)*