

**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)

you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

My father's wisdom was of divine origin. It did not originate within him, but the wisdom from God became his own and he passed it on to his family. Thanks are due my dad and praise is due my God. *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* (James 3:17-18)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, 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, Larry Sells, The Knollman family, Christian Shadburne, Lynette Thomas, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement)

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“But By The Grace of God I Am What I Am”

Adam Litmer

Paul said the above words immediately following a statement about his unworthiness to be called an apostle. He based that conclusion upon his past persecution of the church of God (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). Verse 10 reads, *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

Even though most Christians were not violent persecutors of the church of God before putting on Christ, with just a little reflection all of us should be able to empathize with Paul's statement. Those who knew me about 17 years ago knew a young man who could not be bothered with spiritual matters even though he wore the name “Christian.” That young man was so caught up in worldly pursuits, so focused upon worldly thoughts, so involved with worldly people, that there was no appreciable difference between him and the world. Indeed, he looked an awful lot like Peter's dog and sow (2 Peter 2:22). I thank my God every day for the incredible patience He extended to a stubborn, hard-hearted, and fallen Christian who thought he knew better than everyone else, including God.

I have been preaching the gospel for nearly 13 years now and as I look back over the landscape of my life I know it is only *by the grace of God I am what I am*. That I stand just before my God is humbling and stunning in equal parts. What does your past look like? Do you see a time, perhaps even stretching for years, when you wore the name “Christian” yet lived like anything but? Do you see a sin that you cherished for years and simply refused to let go? Do you see a time when you embraced error, perhaps even spreading and teaching it to others? Have you ever found your face buried in your hands as you thought to yourself, “I am so unworthy of His love”? We don't deserve his love, we certainly have not earned it, yet there stands John 3:16 and Romans 5:6-11 reminding us that we have it anyway. Truly each one of us must declare daily, *But by the grace of God I am what I am*.

Yet let us carefully note that Paul responded to the grace of God in a certain way. God's grace lit a fire within Paul's bones. Indeed, the grace of God entirely

changed the way Paul approached life. Let him show us that God's grace takes an active role in the life of the saint by reading Titus 2:11-14. *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

Many view God's grace as some nebulous, indefinable force that swoops in to wipe away sins the moment they occur before swooping back to its hiding place until they sin again. Paul never viewed grace as some sort of mystical magic eraser that only shows itself when we sin. He shows us that God's grace is not just the reason we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-10), but that it trains us to live properly in this life. Grace trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passion. Grace trains us live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. Grace trains us to wait in hopeful expectation for the appearing of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Grace trains us to recognize that the purpose of our redemption is to serve Christ with all our hearts and become zealous for good works. How does grace do this? It does it through the Word of God (an extraordinary gift of God's grace) and through the motivation that comes from our own gratitude and love to God for what He's done for us.

This same apostle warns us that it is possible to *receive the grace of God in vain* (2 Corinthians 6:1). How are such Christians identifiable? They tend to be lukewarm, inactive, and bored. They tend to neglect Bible reading/study, prayer, and service to their brethren. They tend to find excuses not to worship with their brethren, become easily distracted by worldliness, and instantly defensive should a concerned brother or sister seek to pull them aside to discuss their spiritual condition. At least, that's what *this* Christian looked like all those years ago when he was receiving the grace of God in vain.

Fortunately, and by God's glorious mercy, none of us have to receive His grace in such a foolish and ungrateful way. Let it train and motivate us to live like Christ. Let it train and motivate us to shine Christ's light so brightly that the adversary himself must shield his eyes. *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.* May such an awesome statement be true of each of us!

Divine Wisdom from Above

John Thompson

My father never progressed beyond a high school education, but he was one of the wisest men I have ever known. He never sat with a group of intellectuals discussing some new scientific theory or spent time alone pondering some mystical concept only he understood, but he could, and often did, tell you with great accuracy what would work

and what would not. His wisdom did not come from books; he would have readily agreed with the words of Ecclesiastes 12:12: *Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.* Dad was not totally against books and the knowledge contained therein. He knew books had their place, but, when someone with a lot of book learning tried to impress him with their knowledge he would simply cut off the discussion by saying, "It's beyond me." His wisdom was gained through experience, and he learned through experience that what worked out best for himself, his family, his neighborhood, and his country was the wisdom of divine origin that is contained in just one book, the Bible.

To my knowledge, Dad never taught a Bible class, but one could learn Bible principles from him by how he lived every day. He never stood in a pulpit and delivered a sermon, but his daily actions truly did speak louder than any words he could have uttered from some lofty perch because he was true to his word and his actions were entirely consistent with his stated principles. He could quote a bit of scripture and he tried his best to teach the gospel to his parents, his brother, and a few close neighbors, but while they all had a high level of good, practical, earthly wisdom, they lacked the spiritual wisdom that would have placed them upon a higher plain.

The book of Proverbs speaks most eloquently about wisdom. Chapter 1 begins with stating that the proverbs of King Solomon are given *To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.* (Verses 2-6) Often the everyday, practical truths of the proverbs are so evident that it is tempting to limit their application just to our physical lives. For example, the dangers associated with laziness are impossible to disregard when expressed so succinctly in Proverbs 6:6: *Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.* However, the real message of Proverbs, and the more important one, is to gain the wisdom which pertains to our spiritual lives. One can be so physically industrious and worldly wise that he is the very picture of spiritual laziness and neglect. Such a situation is not so wise after all.

Following the introductory verses about wisdom quoted above, Solomon states the theme of Proverbs in verse 7 of chapter 1: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.* The value of divine wisdom cannot be better stated than in Proverbs 2:1-10. *My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then*