

**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)

the faith of one who had experienced God's salvation too many times to count. They cried out that there was no salvation for David in God and he silenced them by declaring that salvation is found nowhere else. Salvation belongs to God and He has promised to bless His people. David was one of His people. Absalom and his fellow conspirators were as dogs without teeth. They made loud and boastful noises but were powerless to destroy David. After all, how do you destroy the one who has God as his Protector, Encourager, Deliverer, Sustainer, Confidence, Victory, and Salvation?

Special Study Today

The study on marriage, divorce, and remarriage is scheduled for this afternoon at 4:30. If you have not yet picked up the material it is on the table next to the bulletins.

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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“Thus Saith the Lord”

John Thompson

One of the most memorable TV commercials of the late 1970s ended with the statement, “When E. F. Hutton talks, everyone listens.” The commercial was a very effective one. People connected with it because they understand the value of listening to and heeding the advice of someone whose expertise and track record is well established. In none of the various scenarios of the E. F. Hutton commercials does anyone challenge the authority ascribed to E. F. Hutton. Rather each scenario ends showing a whole group of people waiting with bated breath to hear what E. F. Hutton has to say.

Human beings are remarkably inconsistent. We can strictly adhere to certain principles in one area of life and completely ignore those very same principle in another area. This inconsistency pops up most frequently, I believe, in the area of religion. One who believes E. F. Hutton to be the world's most informed authority on the matter of financial investing would never think of altering his advice. After all, “when E. F. Hutton talks, everyone listens.” When it comes to spiritual matters, a person states his belief that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, directly inspired word of God. He even advertises that the church with which he is associated is a Bible-based church, Bible-teaching church. Yet he feels perfectly free to alter that which has been revealed by God who is infinitely more authoritative in all areas than any human being in any given area.

Did you know that in the King James Version of the Bible the exact phrase, “thus saith the Lord” occurs 413 times in the Old Testament? The phrase is found 273 times in just two books of the Old Testament: [Jeremiah \(147\)](#) and [Ezekiel \(126\)](#). Of what significance do you consider that fact to be? The significance is that God is the Divine Authority and when He speaks, everyone should listen. If one is willing to wait expectantly for E. F. Hutton to speak, how much more should he have his mind prepared to listen to the Lord when He speaks? If one is willing to act upon E. F. Hutton's direction, trusting that it is true and accurate, then how much more should directions and commands and principles established by The Divine Authority be acted upon without challenge? A major fallacy of religion throughout history is that more

respect has been given to man's authority than to God's authority resulting in innovations and eliminations. That fallacy accuses those who require a "thus saith the Lord" as being legalistic, ignoring the spirit of the law to emphasize the letter, and not allowing the message of the Bible to change with the times.

Is it wrong to insist upon a "thus saith the Lord?" Throughout the Bible mankind is cautioned, strongly cautioned, not to disrespect the authority of God by not listening when God speaks. Please consider the following passages:

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:6)

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

Is it wrong to require a "thus saith the Lord?" Not at all! In fact, it is wrong not to insist upon it. Not long after the northern kingdom of Israel divided away from Judah under the leadership of Jereboam, Rehoboam began to prepare to fight the northern kingdom and bring them back under his rule. However, that was not God's plan. And so, God sent Shemaiah, a prophet, to deliver this message: "**thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord.**" (1 Kings 12:24)

God Was Everything To Him

Adam Litmer

Psalm 3 is a favorite psalm of many people, myself included. The superscription tells us that David penned it while fleeing from his son, Absalom. This short psalm tells us exactly what God was to David. I believe we can benefit by considering its eight verses.

"O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God." (1-2) Many were David's foes. Former friends had aligned themselves with David's rebellious son. Those who had once sat at David's table, feasting and laughing, were now seeking his life. What's worse, they were

attacking the very foundation of the godly king's faith. "There is no salvation for him in God." Could more painful words be cast David's direction? This is a clear effort on the part of David's enemies to plant doubt in his mind, to cause him to question God's ability or willingness to save him. They failed. The remainder of this psalm is a beautiful expression of all that God was and meant to David. As we shall see, God was *everything*.

"But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill." (3-4) The circumstance was bleak and the outcome seemed very much in question. Absalom had garnered the support of very powerful, wise, and influential people. David was outnumbered and forced to flee from his own city. Any observer would have said that the balance had shifted in Absalom's favor. He would have said that David was despondent and had abandoned any hope of rescue. He would have been wrong. As David wrote in the words above, God was his protector, encourager, and deliverer. One who has experienced God's aid innumerable times is not so easily overwhelmed as to forget it. When he remembers God, his entire outlook begins to change. See it in the following words.

"I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around." Sleep often abandons those faced with great obstacles as worry weights constantly on their minds. They cannot find peace or rest until the obstacle either crushes them or they somehow manage to sidestep it. This need never be the case for the faithful child of God. David was not sure how the situation would be resolved, but he *was* sure that God had been his sustainer in the past and would be again. Armed with that knowledge, David laid his head down and slept the peaceful sleep of the trusting. Those thousands arrayed against him had not disappeared, but God was his confidence and the army does not exist who can break through God. Thus, in the midst of tremendous turbulence and a maelstrom of chaos, David closed his eyes and went to sleep. God preserved him through the night and watched over him as he awoke. David cried out for help to his God upon waking.

"Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessings be on your people!" (7-8) Alone, David and his army were in no position to overcome Absalom's forces. So what? David and his army were *not* alone because God was David's victory. Though David and his men were prepared to serve as vessels and instruments, David knew that God would be the one to strike his enemies on the cheek and break their teeth. They had taunted David by telling him that there was no salvation to be had in God. This was a feeble and puny attempt to overthrow