

**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)

more should we then learn to trust that God knows what He is doing!?

So much of Scripture is devoted to the power of God, urging us to trust His wisdom. The book of Job perfectly illustrates this. When God finally spoke, they were reminded of their ignorance and of the power and wisdom of God in this creation (see Job 38ff). Job needed to learn to trust God, even when he didn't understand all the reasons for his own personal suffering.

Faith allows us to live with unanswered questions. Yes, we keep searching and learning, but our knowledge will not be filled to the brim. It may be that some answers are beyond our grasp, but the bottom line is that we are still the children who don't know how to care for ourselves. Now, we are not so innocent, but God takes care of that if we will trust Him. He has made all the arrangements. If we trust Him, we can live through the difficulties and know that it will all be worthwhile in the end (1 Cor. 15:58).

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"* (Prov. 1:7).

**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, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Lynette Thomas, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), the McDavid family

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 7--Number 26

June 28, 2015

## Striving After Wind

John Thompson

It was a hot, hot day, perhaps the hottest day this year thus far. It was one of those very hot days when one could stare at a group of trees and never see a leaf move. Every once in a while there might be a dirt devil visible for a couple of seconds or less, but certainly no sustained breeze anywhere. I decided to walk around my neighborhood a bit, curious about how the heat was being tolerated. Much to my surprise, a lot of my neighbors were outside, many more than I would have expected. But the most shocking thing was what they were doing. They were running pell-mell around their yards and in the streets with their arms fully extended, hands opening and closing, as if they were trying to grab hold of something. Periodically they would insert a hand into a pocket or purse. Seeing one individual bent over gasping for breath from all his effort, I leaned down and asked, "Are all you people crazy. What on earth are you doing?" He answered, "Just trying to capture what little bit of wind there is to get cool." I didn't tell him how futile it all seemed to me. Didn't all those desperate people know that the wind is not something one can reach out and get a handful of?

A couple of blocks further on I began seeing people carrying around white 5-gallon buckets. Suddenly some would break into a dead run trailing the bucket behind them. The bucket turned out to be something called a "Wind Trap." It had a lid with flaps that opened when one ran trailing the bucket behind, and closed when they stopped. Instructions on the bucket said that the faster one ran, the more wind would be packed into the bucket. What a gimmick, I thought and wondered how much those buckets cost.

Of course, the above scenario is fictional, but how much effort would you expend to grab hold of the wind, something you know you cannot, no matter how hard you try, actually close your hand around? Nor can you put some of it into a container. How long would you continue running first this way, then that way, frantically trailing a bucket behind you trying to force some wind into it? We know that wind exists because we can feel it on our skin and we can observe how it affects things around us, but we also know that it is useless to try to capture it to be used

later. Yet, striving after wind is the very illustration used in Ecclesiastes to picture the uselessness of most of man's activity. As the writer reviews his past he frequently expresses the vanity of his achievements as "a striving after wind." History seems ever doomed to repeat itself. Even a casual observation of mankind at any time during his sojourn on this earth reveals a continual striving after wind.

Lest we conclude that Ecclesiastes only shows the vanity of worldly achievement in a rather depressing manner, we should not miss the essential and very positive spiritual conclusions reached by the writer. Throughout the book we are informed of what is really important, what is not vanity, what is not a striving after wind. Consider the following two passages, then go to the book itself and search out the rest of the writer's conclusions about what is not vanity.

*Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.* (Ecc. 4:6) Which has greater appeal to you: a 14 hour work day seeking to accumulate more and more worldly things or spending some quiet time searching out the wonders offered by God? How we should love to sing: "Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He, faithful, will remain. Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end." (Hymn: Be Still, My Soul, Verse 1)

*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because **God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.*** (Ecc. 5:10, 18-20) God wants us to enjoy the things He provides us. For example, a farmer cannot help but admire and enjoy a bountiful crop when he has labored to till the soil, plant the seed, and harvest the crop. But God does not want us to have an insatiable desire to gain the things of this world. He does not want us to be driven by covetousness or greed. He stands ready to aid our contentment, and if we will cease the pursuit of worldly things and seek first the kingdom of God, He will keep us occupied with joy in our hearts and the rat race of worldliness will be long forgotten.

### **Living With Unanswered Questions**

Doy Moyer

Most of us would likely agree with the idea that the older we get, the more we realize we don't know. The vastness of the universe, the complexity of people, and the general recognition that we just don't have all the answers leads us to realize the need to

be humble. We don't know everything. Now that doesn't mean we cannot know anything. It only means that we need to recognize that we are not infinite and there are limitations to what we can know. This is a difficult world in which we live, a world that has been corrupted by sin. Sin is a problem that is brought on by the attempt of people to dethrone God and take the throne for themselves. We want to be our own rulers, and so our view of God often suffers because we suppress His nature in our thinking in order to make ourselves more important.

Yet we must recognize God to be God, in all that entails. God doesn't need our permission to be who He is, but in our hearts and minds, we must learn to calm the storms that threaten our respect for God and see that God runs this universe by His wisdom and power. "*O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your possessions*" (Psalm 104:24).

As Paul affirms, God is "*able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think*" (Eph. 3:20). We aren't even capable of thinking all that God can do. "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*" (Rom. 11:33)

Learning to trust God can be a difficult task for us, especially when we don't understand why things are the way they are. Why did God make us this way? Why isn't the Bible clearer on this or that topic? Why does Jesus say it that way? Why does God allow this person to suffer? On go the questions to which we often don't have the full answers. For some, this kind of problem can be something that creates a crisis in faith. How can we live with unanswered questions? How can we accept a God who doesn't tell us everything we want to know?

Jesus taught, "*Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all*" (Mark 10:15). The key issue here is that of trust. From the time we were born, we learned to trust our parents. We didn't know anything about this world. We were entirely in the hands of our caretakers — innocent, ignorant, and with no way of knowing how to care for ourselves. Yet we trusted. We may have cried, struggled for independence, and asked, "Why?" as we were growing, but we know now that the only way to get by was through trusting those in charge. It is, in fact, only reasonable that those who know less and have fewer experiences should learn from those who know more and have experienced more.

Yet think of how much greater God is. He holds the universe in the palm of His hand. "*Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales?*" (Isa. 40:12)

We do not have the knowledge of the Holy One. We cannot gather the winds in our fists. We cannot wrap the waters in our garments (see Prov. 30:4). So how much