

**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)

MDR Study

Our second session on marriage, divorce, and remarriage will be today at 4:30. If I cannot get to the questions today I will certainly be able to next month. If you would like to submit a question in writing please feel free to do so today.

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, Evelyn Damron

University Heights Messenger

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A Sermon Quote

I do not know if the following statement came from brother Mark or brother Paul preaching last Sunday at Douglass Hills in Louisville. Regardless, I found it extremely encouraging and uplifting. I am certain that you will, as well.

The statement 'God is light' reminds us there is hope. Sometimes it seems like Satan, evil, sin, and darkness are winning. It seemed like a lot of hope had been taken away last Friday (Supreme Court Gay-marriage decision). However, it also seemed like Satan won on another Friday centuries ago. But Christ arose. God won. 'God is light' reminds us that light always drives away darkness. God always wins. And, we will win as well.

Perspective, brethren.

The Joy of Tested Faith

John Thompson

Very few people go to bed at night without having given at least some minimal thought to the next day's happenings. One who gives no thought to both the immediate and distant future will live a very hap hazard life, missing scheduled appointments, being chronically late, disappointing others, feeling victimized, jealous of the success of those around him, and quick to deflect blame away from himself. Yet most people will have looked at their calendar, checked their appointment book, spoken by phone to firm up plans, or made some preparation for the next day. Adequate preparation is a good thing.

Consider how you prepare for the next day's events. What procedure works for you? Now with that procedure in mind, ask yourself if that procedure includes preparing spiritually for the next day's events.

Would it not be a good thing to ask yourself before retiring for the night, “How will my faith likely be tested tomorrow?” Which events have I scheduled, which activities have I planned that are likely to challenge my faith? For example, I believe I am well prepared to discuss my evaluation tomorrow with my supervisor, but what if he is unhappy with my performance? What if he demeans me in front of others? Am I prepared to have my faith tested?

I firmly believe in the coming days the Christian’s faith will be severely tested. Lifestyles abhorrent to Almighty God are not just tolerated, not just accepted as the “new norm,” but celebrated. One cannot go shopping without being bombarded with near nudity and gross profanity. Race riots, home invasions, homegrown terrorists, the rise of militant Islam, corrupt politicians are just a few examples of a society in rapidly accelerating decline. Will we successfully meet the coming tests to our faith? Let the scriptures show the way!

James 1:2-3. *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* The testing of our faith is an opportunity for growth, a chance to become stronger and more rock solid. This growth occurs when various trials are met with success. Can we prepare for tomorrow’s tests to our faith by being confident we will overcome those trials and count it all joy?

Revelation 2:9-10. *I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.* Can we prepare each night for the possibility of being tested tomorrow with extreme oppression by anticipating that crown of life?

1 Peter 4:12-15. *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that*

you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. Can we prepare for being tested tomorrow with fiery trials by seeing them as opportunities to rejoice in the sharing of Christ’s sufferings?

The scriptures show us the way to anticipate having our faith tested, to pass the tests, and to become stronger with a faith increased by overcoming the very things that seek to bring us down. Praise be to God and our Savior, Jesus!

I greatly appreciate the thoughts expressed by brother John in his article, as well as those from one of last Sunday’s sermons at Douglass Hills. Wickedness is being accepted and glorified in this country at an accelerated pace. Older Christians who can recall the various sinful “revolutions” that occurred in this country from decades past claim that they have never seen it occur quite as rapidly as it is occurring now. Prepare for increased persecution, brethren. It is no longer a question of if it will happen but when. While decisions such as those made by the Supreme Court two Friday’s ago are discouraging, and the constant belittling of God, His Word, and His people can be quite frustrating; none of these recent events (and the one’s to come) should ever cause a Christian to despair. On the contrary, let them remind us that this world truly is not our home. Let the increasing wickedness of our nation serve to increase our thirst for Heaven. Brethren, let these events remind us that there is nothing to love about the pleasures of this sinful world. Be reminded, not despairing! Be driven, not despondent! Just a little longer and eternity with our God awaits the faithful. Don’t you want it now more than you did two weeks ago? Press on, beloved!