

**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 elders will meet
with the congregation
today at 5 to discuss the
work of the church. All
members are
encouraged to attend.**

what it should be. The faithful saint is a faithful saint no matter how people treat them. If our pure heart relies upon sunny conditions and friendly treatment to remain pure, than I'm afraid our hearts were never so pure to begin with.

Earlier I said that introspection is a vital *exercise* for saints to engage in; yet that makes it sound as though it's an occasional activity, though an important one. That's not quite correct. The very *life* of the saint must be one of introspection. The heart must be carefully examined with every shifting circumstance to ensure that we are always walking worthy of our calling. Part of that calling is thinking the right things all the time, and part of *that* is thinking correctly about people, even when they mistreat us. In such cases we often learn the truth about ourselves.

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, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), the McDavid family, Evelyn Damron, Andy Kincaid, Evelyn Damron, Cassie Neel, Tony Tirey

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Are We No Longer Amazed and Full of Wonder?

John Thompson

Madame Secretary is a relatively new television drama series. I recently saw a rerun of the initial session involving the new Secretary of State successfully negotiating the release of two teenage young men who had been detained in a Middle Eastern prison and were due to be executed in just a few hours. As far as they knew, they had no hope of rescue, but they were delivered out of the hands of their captors. The final scene shows the boys deplaning and being ecstatically greeted by their loved ones. Similar and even more dramatic rescues happen quite frequently. Sometimes we get a glimpse of the one rescued meeting the rescuer for the first time, and it makes for a very emotionally compelling encounter. The word miracle seems to be the word that most readily comes to their minds as they talk over the release. However, have you ever wondered if those thus rescued continue to maintain that same intensity of amazement and awe in the presence of the one responsible for their deliverance?

Often, details seemingly left out of a story speak just as loudly as those evident in the story. Let's consider the Book of Judges. That which stands out to most readers is the recurring cycle whereby the Children of Israel do evil; God allows surrounding nations to oppress Israel; Israel cries out to the Lord; and the Lord hears and raises up Judges to deliver the people from their oppressors. After a period of rest and peace, the cycle begins all over again. Frequently, the peace lasts only during the lifetime of a particular judge and then the people regress very quickly into sinful practices, almost as if they could not wait for their spiritual leader to be out of the way. What seems to me to be missing, except perhaps for the song of Debra, from the story is a sense of amazement and wonder and awe each time they are delivered. When they cry

out to the Lord in their oppression it almost seems like they believe they are entitled to deliverance.

Surely there is a lesson here for us, because we, too, have been delivered. Colossians 1:13 says, *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* The Apostle Paul was one who never forgot how blessed he was to have received salvation by grace through faith. Facing imminent death he wrote in 2 Timothy 4:18, *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

The Greek word translated “rescue” is a very powerful word in the Greek. It literally means to draw along or drag along the ground and was used especially in the sense of drawing an object along the ground to oneself and away from danger. I once saw a documentary of dogs used in the Vietnam War and I remember quite vividly one dog dragging its wounded handler to a place of safety during a nasty firefight. The word in the Greek was, to some degree, reserved for those situations combining extreme danger with absolute maximum effort by the one doing the rescuing. And so, this word was the one most appropriate for use with the great and merciful act of salvation, our rescue from eternal death. How could we do anything less than stand in utter amazement and awe, every hour of every day, at the majesty of our King, Christ Jesus?

“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned, unclean. How marvelous! How wonderful! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior’s love for me.

When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see, ‘twill be my joy thro’ the ages to sing of His love for me. How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior’s love for me.”

Learning The Truth About Yourself

Adam Litmer

If man has shown us anything throughout his existence it is that gazing intently upon his inner self in the proverbial mirror is not something he generally finds appealing. Indeed, the first time we find God confronting an individual over sinful conduct we find that individual immediately pointing the finger of blame elsewhere (Genesis 3:11-12). Introspection is a vital exercise for saints to engage

in (2 Corinthians 13:5). Examining one’s reactions to the situations of life can tell them a great deal about themselves. In many ways it can tell them exactly where they stand spiritually.

This is especially true when mistreated by another individual. While one may refrain from lashing out at them in a public manner, the heart may harbor less than appropriate attitudes against them. Let’s face it; smiling in someone’s face while seething on the inside is not that difficult. Yet do not forget that Jesus, in his great Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), focused with great intensity upon the condition of the heart. He showed that what we think is of equal importance to what we do. Indeed, what we think can make what we do useless, even if what we are doing is a “religious” action (Matthew 5:23-24).

No one enjoys being mistreated by another person. It is especially painful when the one who mistreats us ought to know better. Yet this one thing we can say about such times with certainty: we’ll learn the truth about who and what we really are when it happens. Let us clearly understand that harboring unworthy thoughts against one who mistreated us, the kind of thoughts described in Matthew 5:21-22, is every bit as sinful as the original mistreatment itself. Brethren have demonstrated that they can be just as determined grudge-holders as even the worldliest people. If my response to mistreatment is to “get even” by striking back directly, indirectly by speaking about them to others in an effort to prejudice minds against them, or simply internalizing the transgression to the point that I cannot even *think* about them without my temperature rising, then I am demonstrating a mind set not on spiritual things but carnal (James 3:13-4:2).

The mirror that is God’s Word is constantly before us. It is not so concerned with showing us how we appear to ourselves, but how we appear to God. We may be completely wrong in our estimation of ourselves (man often is through pride, ignorance, or wishful thinking), but never God. He knows precisely what’s in each of our hearts and is determined that we should know it as well. Thus, the changing and shifting circumstances of life (which we’ll discuss tonight from Ecclesiastes 3) are constantly before us; testing, prodding, revealing, and proving us. Through good times and bad, joyful times and sad, times of plenty and little, and times of friendliness and enmity, God’s Word is there to provide us a mirror to the soul. Who am I really? If the answer is not the same regardless of any circumstance that faces me, than the answer is not