

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)

NOTE

**There will be a
special study this
afternoon at 4:30 for
the members of this
congregation.**

years. Then Israel again went after the same old false gods they had gone after so many times before. After 18 years of Philistine and Ammonite oppression they repented and God *became impatient over the misery of Israel.* (Judges 10:16) Other versions help us better understand the nature of God's impatience in this situation. The NIV says God *could bear Israel's misery no longer.* The KJV says God's *soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.* The NKJV reads *His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.* God felt a sense of urgency. Having received what He wanted from His people, He acted quickly to deliver them once again.

What a great and awesome God we serve. Everything He does is meant for our benefit and salvation!

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

University Heights Messenger

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Get Off Those Coals! (1)

Adam Litmer

In Proverbs 6:27-28 the wise man asks a rhetorical question. *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not get scorched?* Obviously the answer to these questions is in the asking. His context immediately before and after these questions is knowingly and willfully placing oneself in situations of great temptation, particularly of the sexual variety.

In 1 Corinthians 10 the apostle Paul began by reminding his readers that it was possible for them to fall away from God. He illustrated this possibility by pointing them to their wilderness-wandering brethren from centuries before. Rather than leave the subject with a warning Paul chose to leave it with a word of encouragement. *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

As Christians it is imperative that we learn two things about temptation. First, it is incredibly dangerous and not to be trifled with. Second, it is possible to overcome, no matter how powerful it seems to be, provided we act with wisdom. Remember that temptation is not sin. After all, our Lord himself was tempted and yet remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1) Yet let us always remember that temptation, though not a sin itself, is always an *occasion* for sin and failing to respect the power of temptation is an invitation to spiritual disaster.

You may recall the foolish young man described by Solomon in Proverbs 7. He found himself seduced by a woman of less than sterling character. We could almost feel sorry for that young man if it were not for one very important fact--he was not there by accident (Proverbs 7:6-9). Solomon says that this was

“*a young man lacking sense, passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house...*”. He was not passing that way by mere chance. This foolish young man was exciting himself with the prospects of temptation, knowingly putting himself directly in the path of something he honestly did not want to avoid to begin with.

That foolish young man was very much like the boy who had been warned by his father not to go swimming in a nearby pond on his way home from school. He walked in the door about half an hour later than he should and his father noted that he was trying to quickly sneak up to his room without being stopped to chat. His father stopped him and noted that his son was attempting to hide a pair of soaking wet swimming trunks. The father wanted to know why his son had disobeyed him. The boy assured him that he had never intended to disobey but as he was walking home he was suddenly struck by the most awful temptation to swim in that pond. His father looked at him for a moment and then asked him why he had taken his swimming trunks to school with him when he had been told before he left the house not to swim in that pond. The suddenly red faced boy stood staring down at his feet for a moment before telling his father that he took them just in case he was tempted on the way home from school.

My friends, we are extraordinarily blessed that our Lord has promised us a way of escape from every temptation and from every trial, a way to endure them. But please note this and take it to heart--there will be no escape for the one who approaches sin's invitation with interest rather than fear.

Lord willing, we will have more to say on this topic in next week's bulletin.

When God Is On Our Side

John Thompson

When you consider the Book of Judges, what is the first thing that comes into your mind? Is it not the often repeated cycle of Israel serving the Lord, falling into sin and idolatry, undergoing servitude and enslavement to an oppressor, finally crying out to the Lord, and a judge or deliverer being provided by God, ending with a period of peace and prosperity? Typically, our Bible discussions revolve around the part Israel played in this cycle, and for good reason. If we are honest with ourselves, we will realize that we also too frequently play our part in a similar cycle.

But God was also an active participant in the cycle and it behooves us to study His role and to praise Him for it. Much is revealed about God in the Book of Judges, about His thoughts, His feelings, and His actions with respect to how His people live their lives. When we consider the period of the Judges, God's part of the cycle ought to come to mind just as readily as the behavior of the Israelites

The expression in the Book of Judges that best describes God's role is “the Lord was with the judge.” *Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge.* (Judges 2:18) Whenever Israel did right they prospered because the Lord was with them. God fought their battles for them, delivered them from oppression, and gave them rest and peace. The words “be with” are uttered frequently in our prayers. Be with those travelling; be with the sick; be with our visitors; be with the one preaching; and so on. We are benefited beyond measure when the Lord is with us. What are we seeking when we implore God to be with us? The hymn, Be With Me, Lord, calls it, “A constant sense of thy abiding presence.”

But peace and prosperity lasted only as long as the Children of Israel kept the covenant. When they turned away from God and whole-heartedly embraced idolatry God became angry and proceeded to severely discipline them. *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them.* (Judges 2:11-14) God's anger is not to be taken lightly, and to deliberately provoke it goes against all reason. While it is best to live righteously and avoid God's anger, we ought never to get angry at Him if He disciplines us. Instead, we should recognize and appreciate the fact that God disciplines those whom He loves. (See Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:6; Revelation 3:19)

While God is moved to anger when His people sin, He is also moved to grief and deliverance when His people repent and cry out for relief. Following the conspiracy of Abimelech, Tola and Jair judged Israel for a period of 45