

**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)

Of Note For The Congregation:

The elders request the presence of every member of
this congregation today at 5 as they discuss with us
the work of this church.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Janice
Parsons, 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), Evelyn Damron, Cassie Neel, Tony
Tirey, Rose Curtis, Paula Johnson, The Nunez and
Antle families, Evelyn and Austin Skinner (both
recovering from cancer surgery)

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“But What If It Wasn't?”

Adam Litmer

This past week Jackie and I were watching a show about a man who played a lawyer on a canceled television series and was trying to use his television lawyer experience in the “real” world. It's an amusing premise. During the course of the show it was pointed out that the action of the client was against a company's policy. With great gravity and a thoughtful expression the “lawyer” responded, “But what if it wasn't?” All the “real” lawyers stared at him with odd looks for several seconds before one of them responded, “But it is.” It was a humorous scene and Jackie and I both laughed at it.

I've been thinking about that scene quite a bit the last few days. The question, “But what if it wasn't?” was a non-starter. It was a meaningless question with absolutely no relevance. The policy was clear and legal. Pretending that it did not exist was a practice in pointless activity. It seems as though this sort of thing is pretty well understood in most areas. Sadly, people consistently adopt that pretend lawyers attitude to spiritual matters where God has clearly legislated the issue.

The example that I am finding more frequently among certain “Churches of Christ” where this attitude is being expressed is the role of women within the church. It is hard for me to understand how people who claim to love and respect Scripture and its authority can at the same time jump through every hoop imaginable to insist 1 Timothy 2:11-12 does not mean what it says. *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.* God's policy on this is perfectly clear: a woman cannot serve in the role of an evangelist, preacher, or Bible class teacher where she would exercise authority over a man. Period. It is against God's law and no amount of, “But what if it wasn't?” changes that.

What if God did not require that one believe Jesus was raised from the dead as a condition for salvation (Romans 10:9)? What if God approved having certain portions of the Mosaic Law bound upon people as a condition for their salvation (Galatians 5:3-4)? What if God gave us examples of the Lord's Supper being eaten on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (Acts 20:7)? What if God encouraged people to stay home when their brethren are assembling (Hebrews 10:25)? What if God taught that there are many ways and truths and folks can reach Him however they deem best (John 14:6)? Do you see the point here? These questions are all non-starters. They are pointless, useless, and foolish. God did not approve any of these things and wishing that He had accomplishes nothing.

As the policy from the television show was being discussed it was stated that two individuals at that company had violated it. The pretend lawyer asked, "Did they violate the policy, or did the policy violate them?" Another amusing line that often finds its way into the spiritual realm. It is commonly stated that preventing women from serving as elders or evangelists prevents them from using their God-given abilities and talents. It is said that we do them and the kingdom of Christ a grave disservice in preventing this. One might as well ask, "Do they violate God's policy, or does God's policy violate them?" What a silly question and what a tragic attitude toward God and His Word that conceives it.

Some of the old time preachers would often caution, "We are drifting, brethren." If we take the same attitudes as those expressed above than we are not drifting, we have drifted. Let us always stand upon what God has said and be perfectly content with it. Otherwise, we'll find ourselves asking some foolish and exceedingly dangerous questions that ought never to enter the mind of a true child of God.

Is It Well With Your Soul?

John Thompson

How we love to sing It Is Well With My Soul! The music is a perfect blend of sweetness and power with each note contributing to the beauty of four-part harmony. No singer has to struggle to sing his or her part in tune as the parts almost seem to sing themselves and pick us up and carry us along with them. I have never known this song not to be sung with great enthusiasm or for there not to be a wonderful sense of personal and congregational well-being at its conclusion.

However, does the singing of this song make it well with our souls? How easy it is to allow the loveliness of the music to so capture our minds that we never question the affirmation we are making that it is well with our souls. The vast majority of people, from those who are minimally religious to those who are bordering on fanaticism, are convinced that all is well with their souls. I dare say that one would find this song in the hymn book of every mainstream denomination and that their members sing it with just as much gusto as do we. The real benefit in singing this marvelous song is to do so with a confidence that we will win the prize, yet recognizing that self-examination needs to happen frequently and regularly.

The Apostle Peter confirms this very thing. He wrote in 2 Peter 1:5-11: *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* Notice especially the connection between entering into the eternal kingdom and being all the more diligent to confirm one's calling and election.

"When peace like a river attendeth my way," my soul is little troubled and it is well with my soul. But "when sorrows like sea billows roll," my soul becomes vulnerable to the unease of temptation and the disease of sin. But "whatever my lot," the scriptures are available for comfort and instruction. *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Perhaps the Psalmist said it best: *Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.* (Psalm 128:1-2)