

**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)

God, doing godly things in godly ways, even in the face of the most severe persecution. As Paul said to King Agrippa, "*Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*" (Acts 26:19-20) May others recognize us as Christians because of the converted lives that we live, regardless of how the world treats us.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Janice Parsons (Surgery went very well. Now awaiting the biopsy results), 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, Evelyn and Austin Skinner (both recovering from cancer surgery), Shirley Harrod's family, Andrew Westphal

# University Heights Messenger

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## **The Majority Appeal**

Adam Litmer

In Exodus 23:2 God cautioned against something that has been a problem for man almost from the very beginning. He said, *You shall not fall in with the many to do evil.* Centuries later Jesus made a couple of very informative statements along these lines. *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.* (Matthew 7:13-14). Yet even with these warnings the appeal of the majority remains incredibly strong.

It is quite common for those in the minority on issues to be mocked and pressured to join the majority. I can only assume that Noah and his family must have seemed like a crazy (and tiny) group of religious extremists as they built the ark (Genesis 6-7). Righteous Lot infuriated the men of Sodom as he refused to take part in their deeds, clearly judging them wicked and ungodly. They would have killed him for it had he not been rescued (Genesis 19:5-9). Joshua and Caleb offered their minority report, rocked the boat every which way, and nearly received a stoning for going against the majority opinion (Numbers 13:25-14:10). Students of the Scripture know that in each of these cases (and many more could be added) the majority was wrong. If we can determine why the majority is nearly always wrong in spiritual matters we can equip ourselves to stand correctly and remove the appeal of "majorityism" (if that's not a real word it should be!) altogether.

Let's understand this first: no majority is ever wrong simply because it's a majority. Right and wrong are not determined by numbers, either great or small. Some take a peculiar delight in holding a minority opinion on just about everything. Where many believe the expression "might makes right", these just as heartily accept the proposition "if believed by few it must be true." That's

silly. A small group can be just as wrong as a large group. Nothing is true *because* either a majority or minority accepts it as such. *Let God be true though every one were a liar.* (Romans 3:4)

So why *is* the majority usually wrong on spiritual matters? Well, how do the majority of people respond to divine truth and authority? You don't need to do any research into this besides considering your own relationships. Set aside your brethren for a moment and answer the question by simply considering all other acquaintances in your life. It doesn't take much thought to see that people, as a whole, lack faith in God (at least as God Himself would define it). Every day we see the majority of people substituting human plans and purposes for divine. Practically speaking this means that there is very little chance for sound conclusions in spiritual matters from the majority.

Neither is it a surprise that most people seek out a majority. Without faith in God and the strength to stand alone, most people seek security in numbers. When a majority forms, regardless of the morality or appropriateness of the position they advocate, they convince themselves that "everyone can't be wrong" and continue to "go along to get along." Their numbers grow and the broad way remains heavily traversed.

Beloved, there is nothing appealing about condemnation and if Jesus meant what he said in Matthew 7:13-14 (he did) the majority is marching steadily toward destruction even with its flowing banners of "might", "popular opinion", and "wisdom". How many fathers have asked the child who foolishly followed his friends into some mischief, "If your friends jumped off a bridge would you?" The Father above asks, "If the majority chooses condemnation will you?" Don't say "no" and live "yes". Find God's truth in Scripture and let it guide your steps. It will set you on an awfully narrow road and for long stretches you may not see another traveler upon it, yet it ends at the very gates of Heaven. The majority won't be there, but God will. *No* majority is so appealing as that!

### **What Is A Christian?**

John Thompson

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who follows Jesus. But what does it mean to follow Jesus? The word "Christian" is found a second time in Acts 26:28. In this verse, King Agrippa asked Paul, "*In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?*" Paul had not used the word Christian in speaking to King

Agrippa. Paul had not said, "I am a Christian," or "I am living the Christian life." So, how did King Agrippa come up with the word Christian? It is certainly possible, perhaps even probable, that the followers of Jesus were well known as Christians by this time. It had been several years since they were first called Christians at Antioch. But it is also likely that King Agrippa made a connection between what Paul had been saying just prior to verse 28, and the fact that Paul was a Christian.

What had Paul been saying? Acts 26 begins with King Agrippa giving Paul permission to speak in his own defense. The Jews had charged Paul with being against the Roman government and with disobeying Jewish law. After appealing to Caesar, Paul had languished in prison for two years while Felix, the Governor, conversed with him. Eventually Festus replaced Felix. The Jews renewed their charges against Paul before Festus who listened to Paul and then set in motion the events whereby Paul eventually went to Rome to stand before Caesar. Meanwhile, King Agrippa visited Festus who discussed Paul's case with the King. The next day Paul was brought before the King and was invited to present his defense.

How did Paul go about defending himself? He talked specifically about his conversion. He talked about how Christ appeared to him as Paul sought to harm the Lord's followers. He talked about how zealous he had been from his youth; how he went about persecuting Christians because he fully believed it pleased God. He confessed that he put Christians in prison, beat them, voted for their deaths, and punished them in the synagogues. Then Paul spoke about the change he underwent, how he went from persecuting Christians to becoming a Christian. He went from hurting and terrorizing Christians to being hurt and terrorized *because* he was a Christian. King Agrippa, hearing this defense, could not help but be aware of Paul's abrupt and total change. Paul said to the king, "*For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.*" Then King Agrippa, fully aware of what Paul had experienced in being a follower of Jesus, asked, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who has been converted from a life heading away from God to a life heading toward God, a life of service to