

**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)

Are You In A "Prayer Rut"?

A Christian complained that he felt like he was praying about the same things in every prayer. He called it a "prayer rut." Usually the topics of our prayers remain similar because our needs generally remain the same. There is nothing wrong with that provided our prayers remain heart felt and proceed from faith and trust in God. Yet some may be thinking along with this brother. If you feel as though you are in a "prayer rut" you may find the following thoughts, drawn from the psalms, helpful:

-Try spending at least the same amount of time praising God in your prayers as making requests of Him (Psalm 18:1-2)

-Talk to God about your ultimate hope (Psalm 17:15)

-Reflect upon God's care for you in the past and make specific mention of it (Psalm 13:5-6)

-Tell God about what you intend to do as a result of His love and care (Psalm 22:22)

-Reflect upon the wonder of creation and God's power (Psalm 19:1-6).

It is good to pray about our needs, about our leaders, and for the sick. It is also good to pray for the things mentioned above. These, and many more, can help prevent a "prayer rut."

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, Evelyn and Austin Skinner (both recovering from cancer surgery), Shirley Harrod's family, Andrew Westphal, The Ellis family, Louis Harrod

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A Light and a Voice from Above

John Thompson

Paul's journey to Damascus to persecute Christians came to an abrupt halt outside of the city when *suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.* (Acts 9:3) That light blinded Paul in a physical sense and he would spend the next three days thinking and praying until Ananias came and his conversion to the cause of Christ was completed in the act of baptism. But that same light enabled him to see in a spiritual sense more clearly than he had ever seen before. Let's remember that Paul was a deeply spiritual man. He was not out to persecute Christians because he hated them and wanted to see them suffer, but rather because he loved God and believed he was doing what God wanted him to do. How Paul's countenance must have fallen, and his whole body sagged when that voice from heaven said, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*" And he said, "*Who are you, Lord?*" And he said, "*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*" (Acts 9:4-5)

Perhaps you are familiar with the term "Damascus Experience." People who claim to have had a dramatic, instantaneous, miraculous conversion will often liken it to what Paul experienced on the road to Damascus. Invariably they will describe an epiphany, a sudden manifestation of a divine being, in which they are embraced by light. I believe, without any doubt, that Paul's experience happened exactly the way it is described in Acts. I do not believe that people today experience any kind of miraculous, instantaneous, overwhelming, irresistible power from heaven in their conversion. But I do believe conversion is intimately connected to both a light and a voice from heaven. Let me explain through the use of several pertinent scriptures.

The Bible says that God is light. *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* (1 John 1:5) Revelation 22:4-5 describes heaven as a place having no need of any

kind of artificial light because God will be the light. *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.* Does God keep all of that light for Himself? Not according to James 1:17. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

That light from above is manifested in two ways that are really just two aspects of the same way. First, there is Jesus, Himself. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:1-5, 9, 14) Jesus is the Divine Word that is also the Divine Light. The psalmist wrote, in Psalm 119:105, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

Second, there is the Christian, the one who is walking in the light. *Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12) *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* (1 John 1:6-7) *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16)

Can you think of anything more wonderful and beautiful than this: God, the Father of Lights, sent His Son, the Word, to be the true light that would be the light of the world so that we might follow that light, that we might walk in it and also be the light of the world, to shine that light before others so that they might give glory to the Father in heaven?

“And They Took Offence At Him”

Adam Litmer

The people of Nazareth in our Lord’s hometown are not the only one’s to have taken offense at Him (Matthew 13:57). People today often find themselves offended by Jesus’ *offensive* message. Interestingly, the word from which we get our English “offence” (*skandalon*) was originally “the name of the part of the trap to which the bait is attached, hence, the trap or snare itself...” (*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, page 441). Hogg and Vine say of it, “In NT *skandalon* is always used metaphorically, and ordinarily of anything that arouses prejudice, or becomes a hindrance to others, or causes them to fall by the way. Sometimes the hindrance is in itself good, and those stumbled by it are the wicked” (*Notes on Galatians*, page 262).

The words of Jesus Christ are very good. They are the best words that could ever be spoken. Thus, any stumbling block one perceives in accepting and obeying his words cannot be blamed on the moral or spiritual worth of the words themselves. They are flawless, *perfect*, and they will last forever (Matthew 24:35). Neither may the *source* of his words be called into question for *God the Father* is the Source (John 8:28-29)!

So why do so many take offence at Jesus Christ and His teaching? The flaw is not in him, his Words, nor in his Father who “taught” them to him. The flaw is in the hearers. Today people hear Jesus’ teaching on divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:9) and are offended by it. Thus, they ignore it. Today people accept *part* of His teaching on how we can have sins removed (John 3:16; Luke 13:3) but find another part offensive (Mark 16:16). Thus they teach an incomplete plan of salvation. Today people hear Jesus say that He requires their all, each day of their lives (Luke 9:23), and they find that a bit much. Offended, they decide to offer just a small portion of themselves on days when it is convenient for them to do so.

These days people claim to be ardent disciples *of the One who offends them on just about every page of the New Testament*. Even more amazingly, those who emphasize obeying the commands of Jesus Christ to them, *whom they themselves call Lord and Master*, are ridiculed as being “legalists.” May God save us from such a crooked generation (Acts 2:40)!