

**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)

hearts; "God our Father who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace."

Yes, people the world over, long for comfort. Perhaps that is why the 23rd psalm has such an enormous appeal to those seeking comfort. *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* (Psalm 23:4). The need for comfort will drive the Christian to find it in God's word. *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.* (Romans 15:4). The Christian knows that comfort of the soul finds its source in God. "...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4-7)

NOTE

The congregational meeting is today at 5.

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), Andrew Westphal, The Ellis family, Louis Harrod, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland

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Have You Been With Jesus?

Adam Litmer

Acts 5:27-29 says, *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*

It required extraordinary courage for Peter and the others to stand before the council and say the things they did. The Sanhedrin charged the apostles with disobeying their command to teach no more in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). The apostles said that it was right for them to disobey. The Sanhedrin accused the apostles of trying to bring the blood of Jesus Christ upon their heads. The apostles accused them of killing Jesus (Acts 5:30). The Sanhedrin denied that Jesus possessed divine authority. The apostles declared, *"God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins"* (Acts 5:31). By then much of the Sanhedrin was prepared to kill the apostles (Acts 5:33). Had they not heeded the advice of Gamaliel (Acts 5:34-39) they likely would have done so.

What an awesome display of faith and courage. It is not difficult to begin imagining that they were a different breed of human, a group of first century "supermen" exempt from the discouragements and fears that often plague "the rest of us." After all, what else could explain their ability to stand with straight backs and determined brows before an enraged Sanhedrin?

They were not supermen. In fact, they had not always been as bold as this. Even after this event Peter, the spokesman for the group, would briefly turn hypocrite and lead others astray by his example (Galatians 2:11-13). God reveals their failings so that we will recognize that they were just like us, fraught with all the frailties and fears indigenous to humanity. Like us, they occasionally succumbed to temptation. Like us, they experienced illnesses and death. Like us,

they sometimes needed a shoulder to cry on. Like us, they needed to be encouraged. Like us, *they needed to be saved!*

So if they were not supermen, if they really were just like us, how did they manage to bravely stand before a hostile council and so thoroughly make their defense that the council could not *begin* to deal with the points they made? I believe we find all the answer we need in Acts 4:13, the first time two apostles were brought before the council. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*” They had been with Jesus. They had traveled with Him, listened to Him, received their training from Him, and been saved by Him. *They had been with Jesus.*

When ordinary people are filled with extraordinary faith that they have been with Jesus becomes apparent to all who are paying attention. Our ordinary daily lives should show us the truth of this. Why do faithful Christian spouses patiently work at their marriage when folks all around them with similar troubles and fears separate from one another? It is because they have been with Jesus. Why does the faithful Christian see the glory of God in the brilliant morning sunlight while other folks are grumbling about going to work in the morning? It is because they have been with Jesus. Why doesn't the faithful Christian curse and throw out vulgar gestures when someone cuts them off while driving or shoves in front of them in the grocery line? It is because they have been with Jesus.

Living hand in hand with Jesus does not reveal itself only when one's life is on the line. It is something that shines through in daily life. Of course, it *does* require a mature, committed faith to hold its resolve in the face of personal danger. It is the type of faith all saints should work for. Christians often say that they do not know what they would do if faced with the same challenges of some of our earliest brethren, such as those faced by the apostles in Acts 4 and 5. I don't believe that to be the correct attitude. *All* committed Christians should be prepared to not just have their faith tested, but to cling to it to the end, even if that end is death (Matthew 10:22). Such would certainly not be *easy*, but it would be *expected* by the One prepared to welcome them on the other side.

Yes, we are ordinary people. None of us are masquerading as regular humans until we find the nearest phone booth. Yet we are all capable of extraordinary things through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Living the faithful Christian life each day is as extraordinary as surviving the most trying moments with faith intact. Both are made possible because the saint has been with Jesus.

Are You Seeking Comfort?

John Thompson

Comfort! We do like our creature comforts, don't we? Given a choice of where to sit, most of us will choose an overstuffed armchair over a hard-backed, wooden-seat kitchen chair. Without a doubt, we like to be comfortable; we go out of our way to achieve comfort; we spend great sums of money and other resources so that we might have as much comfort as we can get. Seldom do we purposely make ourselves uncomfortable, unless it is to obtain some more lofty and desirable goal.

Discomfort of the body, such as physical pain, causes us great distress. Discomfort of the mind, such as worry and anxiety, can be more distressful even than physical discomfort. But disquiet of the soul, without a doubt, causes us greater disease than anything else we might face. There is no greater comfort available than that found when one's soul is at peace with Almighty God, the Creator and Sustainer of life itself. “When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

For the Christian, the availability of comfort is as infinite as the power of God and His word. Consider the following: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **comfort**, who **comforts** us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to **comfort** those who are in any affliction, with the **comfort** with which we ourselves are **comforted** by God.”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). There is no comfort that has not arisen by and through the foresight and mercy of God. There is no affliction that cannot be relieved by the comfort found only in God. There is no outpouring of comfort from us towards another in need which has not first originated with Deity.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:1-3). Is there any comfort for the soul to be found in Christ's love? Consider what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians in 2 Thessalonians 5:16-17, *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.* Just think about those marvelous words: *may our Lord Jesus Christ himself comfort your*