

**University Heights Church  
of Christ**

445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257

[www.uheightschurch.com](http://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)

**From Adam**

As we prepare to begin a new year I want to take this opportunity to do a little housekeeping, so to speak.

-I am considering sermon topics for 2016, with an emphasis on textual preaching. Suggestions? Feel free to pass them on.

-I am enjoying teaching John's gospel in the auditorium using only the text itself as our material. Please continue to read and meditate upon the passages we'll be studying between classes. Your comments have been well conceived and appreciated.

-If you'd like to study or have something you wish to discuss, I am available at your convenience. Office hours are posted on the bottom left of this page but I am available whenever you need me. Just give me a call.

-Your words of encouragement and kindness throughout the year have been greatly appreciated. Thanks!

**NOTE**

Their will be an elders/deacons meeting 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

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 7--Number 50

December 20, 2015

## Wake-Up Calls: Who Needs Them?

John Thompson

I recently read of an older Christian whose much younger close relative died suddenly in her sleep. The gentleman had fallen away many years ago, but he viewed this tragic incident as his "wake-up call." He heeded that call and was restored to a right relationship with his Lord. How wonderful that he came to his senses, but how not so wonderful that it took the untimely loss of a loved one to give him the prod.

Wake-up calls can be found in all sorts of events and happenings. All it takes is a split second of time, a blink of an eye, a turn of the head, a glance away and then back for some life-altering event to take place. Terrible accidents, natural disasters, the evil that men do to others, even extraordinary kindnesses: all have the potential to be wake-up calls. However, all too frequently, that potential goes unrealized.

The Bible is full of stories of individuals and even various groups, both small and large, of people who received wake-up calls and how they responded is highly instructive for us today. We will find out, I believe, that the people of the Bible responded in the same ways that people respond today. It really boils down to the fact that some will respond favorably and the majority will respond negatively.

Cain's wake-up call came when God asked him, "Why are you angry?" God reminded Cain that if he did well he, too, would be accepted. (Genesis 4:6-7) God set the alarm bells ringing but Cain not only reached out and shut the alarm off, he also became even angrier and slew his brother, Abel.

Sometime after the church was established, Stephen found himself disputing in a synagogue regarding Jesus. He was brought before the council where he proceeded to tell them the truth regarding their rejection of Jesus; this was their wake-up call, a golden opportunity for them to accept Jesus as the

promised Messiah, but, instead, they became enraged and stoned Stephen to death. There have always been those who will react violently when truth is put before them. They would never think to smash their alarm clock against a wall when it rang to awaken them, but they will try to “smash” the one who would awaken them spiritually.

Many others in the Bible reacted less violently, but chose not to be awakened nonetheless. Some are like the sleeper who, by force of sheer habit reaches out for the alarm without conscious thought, turns it off, and within seconds reenters deep sleep. Perhaps the young man, in Matthew 19, is an example. Jesus told him the one thing he lacked was proper perspective on his worldly possessions. He went away sorrowful. So many others depend heavily upon the snooze button that allows them to keep delaying what they do not want to do, which is to awaken. Felix, in Acts 24:25, was like that. *And as he (Paul) reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.”* Felix simply hit the snooze button once again.

I could keep on citing additional examples from the Bible, but those offered will suffice to make the point that if you are not in a right relationship with God, you need a wake-up call. Throughout each day God provides multiple wake-up calls, no doubt hoping that each one will be the one that finally clicks. If an individual needs to make changes, how severe of a wake-up call is needed? Why does it so often seem to require some tragedy to bring one to his senses? The prodigal son of Luke 15 who did not come to his senses until he had wasted his inheritance and faced starvation comes to mind here. Peter, who failed to acknowledge his betrayal of Jesus until the rooster crowed, also fits the pattern.

If you have not yet obeyed the gospel plan of salvation what is the wake-up call that would move you to do so? And should you experience such a wake-up call would the alarm bells ring sufficiently loud to awaken you, or would you arouse enough to shut off the alarm or just continue hitting the snooze button? If you are a baptized believer, how severe of a tragedy would it take to awaken you and bring you back into the fold? Consider your answer well.

## **Did You Know?**

Adam Litmer

There is a song entitled, “Mary, Did You Know?” It is played often at this time of the year. I recently downloaded the song on iTunes as song by an acaeplla group. The song is written as a series of questions about Jesus directed to Mary. One section asks, “Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little Baby you kiss the face of God?” I get chills each time I hear the song with its extraordinarily powerful lyrics.

For the purposes of this short article I want to focus on the question, “did you know?” The truth is that we know so much about our Lord and what he has done. We know things that befuddled the prophets (1 Peter 1:10-11). We know truths into which angels longed to look (1 Peter 1:12). At our fingertips we possess all the written revelation God ever intends to deliver to men. We possess the very thing God designed to make us complete and to equip us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Through His power and grace our God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness. He has given us His precious and very great promises so that through them we might become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4). If at the end the questions were asked of us, “Did you know about God and His plan? About Jesus and his sacrifice? About the Christians calling and how to walk worthy of it? About what is required to dwell with Deity in Heaven?”, we could never answer that we just did not know.

Beloved, we know precisely what has been done for us, what we need to do in response, and what is awaiting the wicked and righteous in the end. We know this world is passing away. We know the pleasures of sin are fleeting. We know that Jesus is coming back. For us the question is not, “Did you know?” For us the question is, “Are you acting upon what you know?” If not, what’s holding you back?