

**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)

the Spirit of our God.(1 Corinthians 6:11) Sainthood is subject to the authority of Jesus Christ and is effected by the Spirit of our God. The Pope, regardless of the proclamation of his predecessors, has no say at all in the matter.

Saints have existed throughout history. Whenever one has acted upon his faith in God, taking God at His Word, happily and willingly submitting to His authority, following His will and obeying His laws, he is made a saint.

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 51

December 27, 2015

Ignore The Exits!

Adam Litmer

Isaiah 35:8 says, *And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.*

A couple of weeks ago Jaclyn, Hannah, and I were returning from a trip to Cincinnati. Upon reaching Lexington there are 3 exits off the interstate before arriving at the one that leads straight to our home. We could have gotten off at any of them and eventually reached home but it would have lengthened our drive. It caused me to consider the number of exits off the Highway of Holiness and back into the world. A huge difference is that there is no detour or series of back roads that can lead me to Heaven if I have chosen to leave the Highway of Holiness. That Highway is the only way home and it is a straight and narrow road.

Unfortunately, it is a Highway that has been left behind by some. Indeed, some have gotten so lost on the twisting roads of the world that they would have great difficulty returning to the Highway even if they were inclined to do so. They have a roadmap, but its directions require sacrifice and selflessness (Mark 8:34-37). Satan's twisting roads do not cultivate those attributes. When one drives with Satan for long it becomes difficult to think and act differently than he has trained them to think and act (James 3:14-16).

Let us consider some of the exits to be avoided. What of the exit of career? Man *must* work (2 Thess 3:10; 1 Tim 5:8), but it can be taken too far. When a Christian puts all or the best of his resources into his work (time, money, energy, focus, enthusiasm, loyalty) then he necessarily takes it away from the Lord. This Christian will find not the time to pray, study, serve, or worship because he's working or too tired from working. Soon, his interest in the Lord's work wanes. He'll gladly discuss how things are going at work, enthusiastically

describing new projects and future plans, but his eyes begin to glaze at talk of the Lord or His work. This man has left the King's Highway.

What of the exit of family? Our family is to mean much to us (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). Let us recall that the Ephesians passage reminds us that wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord, not *instead* of the Lord; husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, not *instead* of Christ and the church; children to obey their parents in the Lord, not *instead* of the Lord.

We will not be saved if our relationship to our family means more than our relationship to Jesus Christ (Matt 10:37; 12:46-50). Actions always spoken louder than words so we can determine which relationship means more to us by what we do. Does the will of Christ or my family factor more heavily in my plans? Would I rather be with my family or my Lord? Do your answers place you on the Highway or not?

Of course, there are more than two exits off this Highway. Let us be aware of them and the temptations that seek to wave before our face. Any pleasure they offer is of necessity fleeting; at their very best they can only last this life. A crown waits at the end of the Highway of Holiness that will go with us into eternity. The Lord will be there. No greater motivation exists for ignoring the exits and keeping our eyes focused on the Highway before us.

Making the Rules

John Thompson

Perhaps the most significant prerogative of power and authority is the ability to make the rules that everyone else must follow. I know of no authoritative role that does not take advantage of that ability. Whether it be a parent, a teacher, an administrator, supervisor, boss, employer, government official, etc., all will exercise, to the limit allowed by their respective position, the power to make rules. Many will go to great lengths to extend their power even beyond those limits. Dictators, kings, emperors, and other assorted totalitarians are rule makers of the worst kind. Right up there with them is the power-hungry officials of organized religion.

Organized religion and rule making have been happily wedded throughout history. The variety of rule-makers in organized religion is astounding, ranging from charismatic cult leaders to annual regional, national, and even international

conferences, conventions, and councils which review previously published rules, discard those perceived to be outdated, retain those considered to still be relevant, and set the new rules for the immediate future. Obviously they all ignore the essential fact that God has already made all of the rules necessary for religious purposes. They pay no heed at all to Paul's inspired indictment in Galatians 1:8-9: *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

With the recent approval of Mother Teresa's second miracle, Pope Francis is now recognizing her as a saint. A bit of research into this matter of sainthood reveals that those martyred for the faith in the early centuries of "the church" were quickly revered as saints. But what about Christians who lived long lives and died from natural causes? Apparently they were not considered by the emerging Roman Catholic Church hierarchy to be worthy of sainthood, being just ordinary, run-of-the-mill Christians. And what about the faithful who lived and died before the church was established? One might easily conclude that Roman Catholicism originated the concept of sainthood. At first, the Catholic Church had no hard and fast rules in place for sainthood and the number of declared saints proliferated until around 1200 when Pope Alexander III declared that the Pope alone had the power to set the rules for sainthood. It was not until the 17th century that those rules became more formalized.

While the above information may be historically verifiable, it can in no way lay claim to Biblical accuracy. Pope Francis would likely be quite surprised to learn that his predecessor, Alexander, was as wrong as wrong can be when he claimed that only the Papacy had the power to set the rules for sainthood. To presume to alone have the power that only God has is foolhardy beyond compare.

Let's review some essential Biblical facts concerning sainthood. A thing is sanctified when it is set aside and devoted exclusively to the very purpose for which it was intended. Paul was chosen to preach to the Gentiles, *that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.* (Acts 26:18). Faith that results in the forgiveness of sins, not miracle performance, is God's requirement for sainthood. *But you were washed, you were **sanctified**, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by*