

**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)

that what I find most attractive about it, besides it being the dwelling of God Himself, is that it will be a place where we will no longer shed tears over death and sickness. We will never visit another hospital. We will never see the anguish in the eyes of family members when the doctor delivers the sad report. We will never file slowly past the casket to shake hands or give hugs to a grieving husband, wife, mother, or father. We will never have to stand in a cemetery to hear a preacher say; "Now our journey with _____ has reached its end." Those are the former things and they will have passed.

Instead, we will all stand around that glorious throne together, faithful loved ones of years past right there at our side, and sing throughout eternity to the One who has made this wonderful reunion possible. Oh, how I long for heaven! What about you?

A special prayer request

Lynn Kincaid is scheduled to have another back surgery.

This will be her third. Let us pray for complete healing and recovery.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, 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 (had another fall and broke her wrist), Doris Baker, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), Evelyn Damron, Tony Tirey, Rose Curtis, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, Joe Cable (blood clots in lung)

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 5

January 31, 2016

Hidden, But Not in Hiding

John Thompson

Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?" (John 7:33-36)

Those Jews were the ones identified earlier in the chapter as wanting to kill Jesus. They were the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes, chief priests, and members of the Sanhedrin, often at odds with one another, but now banded together by means of the common cause of eliminating the threat they thought Jesus posed to their power structure. One can well imagine that the longer time went on the more desperate they became to be rid of him. How uncanny it must have seemed to them that Jesus eluded their traps and trickery time and time again.

But the events of John, chapter 7 occur before the Jews' hatred of Jesus reached the boiling point. When Jesus spoke of going somewhere where they could not find him and where they could not go, they must have become indignant. Palestine was a very small territory. Where did Jesus think he could go that he could not be found? He was too well known in Galilee; Jews were too hated in Samaria; Jerusalem and Judea were the backyards of the Jewish leaders. They had every confidence in their ability to find Jesus wherever He might be. There was no place He could hide that they could not find Him. Interestingly enough, when Jesus' time had fully come, the Jews did not have to go hunting for Jesus for He willingly turned Himself over to them.

So, what did Jesus mean when He said, "*You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.*?" He meant that as long as they

were looking for a Jesus that never was, they would never be able to find the Jesus that He really is. They were looking for the interloper so that they might eliminate Him; they had no interest in the promised Messiah. They were seeking to lay hands upon the One who claimed to be the Son of God in order to maintain the status quo; they would never find the One who came to fulfill the law.

The same is true today. One will only find the Jesus who is, if he is seeking the Jesus who is. *If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.* (John 7:17-18) Too many religious people today have only found the Jesus of their own making. Jesus never once went into hiding to keep from being found. His opponents found just what they were looking for: a troublesome pest to kill.

One who is looking will have no trouble finding the real Jesus. *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”* (Matthew 7:7-8). The problem is not with God or His Son Jesus; the problem is with mankind. *I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ to a nation that was not called by name.* (Isaiah 65:1)

No More Tears

Adam Litmer

Though I have been acquainted with death my entire life, an unavoidable part of growing up in the home of a gospel preacher, I can honestly say that the news of my grandfather's passing caused me more pain than any other event in my life. We were best friends.

Tears flowed freely in my family for many months afterward. Looking back I realize that my grandmother never really recovered. Having been married more than fifty years, I suppose that it's not a surprise. Even all the years later holidays are not quite the same without my boisterous grandpa sitting there at the table making everyone laugh.

Most who read this article will have similar stories to tell. Most of us have lost people who were very important to us and, if you haven't yet, be prepared. It *will* happen.

Our Lord, who *experienced* death, knows the pain that it brings to the loved one's of the deceased. He experienced that, too. *When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. So the Jews said, ‘See, how he loved him!’* (John 11:33-35)

When in a funeral home viewing the family of the deceased standing around the casket, their love is quite literally falling from their eyes. Though knowing that Lazarus was but a moment from raising from the dead, our Lord wept at the loss of his friend and for the hurt of those who loved him.

Knowing the physical loss of a loved one causes great pain, our Lord would not have us despair in hopelessness over the loss of faithful loved one's. He would have us confident and rejoicing over their souls, even as we mourn the loss of their physical presence. It is for this reason that Paul said the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. *For this we declare to you by a word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.* And how encouraging they are!

I am moved by David's words after the loss of his child in 2 Samuel 12:22-23. *While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.* David clearly believed in the immortality of the soul. In the New Testament it is much clearer. David would see that child again in heaven.

Of all the descriptions of heaven, none has comforted Christians throughout the ages more than the words of Revelation 21:4. *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.* Though heaven is described as a city of pure gold with walls of jasper, precious jewels covering those walls, and gates of pearl, I must admit to you

