

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)

picture abortion advocates gloating and giving a thumbs-up to the Texas grand jury. *How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?* (Proverbs 1:22)

Mockery is a very acceptable and frequently encouraged practice in virtually all cultures and societies. Human beings have become skilled at it. People will make jokes about anything and everything. Many pride themselves on their abilities to make fun of others and take every opportunity to hone their skills. They soak up the admiration they receive from their followers who emulate them. They crave the feelings of power mockery and derision gives them. Truly they delight in their mockery, heedless and careless of how they hurt those they mock. Little do they realize that in mocking God's creatures they mock God. *Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.* (Proverbs 17:5)

May we become more aware of our own tendencies to mock others and make concerted efforts to refrain, heeding Colossians 4:5, *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

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, James Ratliff

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Beware The Failure Of Bar-Jesus!

Adam Litmer

His name was Bar-Jesus. He appears suddenly in the Divine Record and just as suddenly vanishes away. Bar-Jesus was a magician and a Jewish false prophet (Acts 13:6). He must have wielded influence to have such ready access to the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Besides the access, Bar-Jesus sought to convince Sergius Paulus to disregard the truth and deny the faith, an awfully presumptuous move unless one is used to offering his counsel and seeing it heeded. Paul was having none of his wickedness and so we come to verses 10-11. *"You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see for a time."* Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. The result of all this was the proconsul believing.

I sometimes wonder what ultimately happened to Bar-Jesus. Did his blinding serve to "open his eyes" to his spiritual condition? Did he evaluate his life and recognize the need to live up to his name? The name "Bar-Jesus" literally means "Son of Savior." I hope that he became a faithful Christian at some point but the little we know of him demonstrates that he was failing tremendously to do his name justice. Son of Savior? Hardly.

We, too, wear certain names that ought to be reflected in the way that we live. Just as Bar-Jesus failed to do justice to his name so we can fail to do justice to ours. For the remainder of this article we shall consider three names. Are we living up to them or falling short of the standard they demand?

Christian. A Christian is one who follows Christ. It is more than a mere title; it is a way of life. After Jesus told Peter the type of death Peter was going to die, the apostle glanced behind and noticed John walking some distance back. Perhaps troubled over the obvious violence implied in the Lord's description of his death, Peter pointed to John and asked about him. Our Lord's response is as powerful now as it was then. *If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!* (John 21:22) You follow me. In every circumstance and situation of life the

Christian follows Christ. It does not matter what others might be doing or not doing; the true Christian will always be found doing this one thing: following Christ. Is that what you are doing, or, like Bar-Jesus, are you wearing a name that bears little resemblance to the reality of your life? Follow Jesus Christ, Christian!

Disciple. A disciple is one who studies hard to be like his master. We do not follow a human master; we follow *the Master!* In John 8:31-32 we find Jesus speaking to some we're told "believed" in him. *If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* The qualification for being the Lord's disciple is abiding in his word along with everything that entails. In Matthew 10:24-25a, Jesus said, *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.* In our study of John's gospel in the auditorium class we have noted on several occasions that the Jesus revealed in Scripture and the "Jesus" of popular culture are vastly different. However, the only way one will be able to tell the difference is if they are willing to be disciples. Disciples are those who devour the Book; who listen to the voice of Jesus in Scripture rather than the voice of men who know little or nothing about it. Is that what you are doing, or, like Bar-Jesus, are you wearing a name that bears little resemblance to the reality of your life? Study about Jesus Christ, disciple!

Believer. A believer is one who trusts enough to obey Jesus. Abraham is inspiration's favorite example of genuine belief. In John 8 the enemies of Jesus declared Abraham to be their father. Our Lord responded in this way: *If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.* (John 8:39b-40) Later, in verse 56, Jesus declared, *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.* How did Abraham, who died many centuries before the Lord's personal ministry on earth, see the day of Jesus and rejoice at it? The Hebrew writer tells us it was by faith and hope in a better (heavenly) country (Hebrews 11:13-16). Because of his powerful belief in the trustworthiness, holiness, and glory of God Abraham was always willing to do what God commanded him. The statement of Genesis 15:6, that Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness, occurs *after* we are shown the pattern of Abraham's life was obedience to God. A true believer in the Lord is a lover of the Lord. Thus, the true believer obeys his commandments (John 14:15). Is that what you are doing, or, like Bar-Jesus, are you wearing a name that bears little resemblance to the reality of your life? Trust Jesus Christ enough to obey him, believer!

So, as Scripture makes clear, we are dealing with more than mere titles. Is the truth of that evident in your life?

Mockery Will Not Go Unpunished

John Thompson

Mockery is a mean and nasty way to treat other people. Mockery involves a host of behaviors and attitudes meant to bolster the mocker's inflated self-image and bring down the one being mocked. Ridicule; making fun of; disrespecting; deriding; jeering; sneering; showing contempt and scorn; scoffing; teasing; taunting; and sarcasm are some of the means frequently used to mock. Careful Bible study reveals that God's people ought not to be mockers. Let's review a few scriptures on this subject and see what might or might not apply to ourselves.

Are you quick to mock things you witness that are a bit out of the ordinary? The Jews assembled in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost were drawn together by a small group of Galileans speaking in the languages of those present. *And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."* (Acts 2:12) Everyone knows that one does not suddenly speak fluently in a foreign language by becoming intoxicated. So, those who mocked did so without interest in learning what was happening. Like many today, they were content to ridicule and, doubtless, were proud of themselves afterward. Are you quick to mock a homeless person, a handicapped person, one who is overweight, or one who struggles with sin?

Do you scoff at one who loves you enough to provide correction? Few things will get someone's back up quicker than being corrected. Granted, sometimes correction is not given very well. However, people frequently scoff at good counsel regardless of the manner in which it is given. That attitude has been around a long time and is deeply rooted in a disdain of authority. *A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.* (Proverbs 15:12). Haven't we been around long enough to learn that we make matters worse when our only reaction to correction is to scoff at it? *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God^[a] may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Would you mock the very word of God because you do not appreciate correction?

Recently, the exposure of the possibility that Planned Parenthood was profiting from the sale of fetal body parts has been back in the national news spotlight. A Texas grand jury has indicted, not Planned Parenthood, but rather those who uncovered that evil practice. Over and over again we see the same thing happening, i.e. the victim becomes the perpetrator and the perpetrator becomes the victim providing grist for the mockery mill. Well did the wise man state in Proverbs 19:28, *A rascally witness makes a **mockery** of justice, And the mouth of the wicked spreads iniquity.* One can