

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 Lord; who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to
the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave
the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more
about the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 30:8-11)*

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

David Seabolt, 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, Janett'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, Betty Clevinger

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 10

March 6, 2016

Responding to a Baptist Pastor 3

Adam Litmer

Question *"If I committed some sin—whether in thought, word, or deed,
one minute before a fatal car crash—would I go to hell if I did not have time to
repent of it? And, please, do not just say that it is up to God without giving me
a specific Bible reference."*

This question can be turned right back around on Mr. Martin. If a person
were to die in some horrible accident one minute before they could "accept
Jesus into his heart as his personal Savior", would that person go to hell? I
confess to very little patience with these hypothetical games. I also confess
amazement at the statement, *"And, please, don't just say that it's up to God
without giving me a specific Bible reference."*

As an aside, how many times over the years have Baptist preachers been
asked to provide the Scripture reference for inviting Jesus into one's heart to
become their personal Savior? I've personally asked the question many times,
even of Mr. Martin himself, and still haven't been shown the passage. Indeed,
no Baptist has ever located that passage because it does not exist anywhere in
Scripture. There is nothing wrong with asking for specific passages from one
asserting a position. Indeed, passages should be demanded (Acts 17:11; 1 John
4:1). However, one should always be willing to provide what they demands of
others. If passages cannot be provided than one needs to stop teaching what his
inability to provide passages clearly demonstrates is not taught in Scripture.

Let's return to the hypothetical situation described in Mr. Martin's
question. Whether Mr. Martin likes it or not I state without the slightest
reservation that I have no problem at all in leaving this entirely in the hands of
God. I say this for two reasons. First, I do not have the authority to send anyone
to Heaven or Hell and I do not presume to do so. However, I add to this that I
also have no issue in staying squarely within the confines of Scripture. Since

God has shown that the saved one has his sins washed clean (Acts 22:16) and has put on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27), I am content to stay right there. Is one who did not do those things saved? Produce the passage, not hypothetical situations.

Second, the passage Mr. Martin requested does exist and shows that, in the final analysis, salvation is God's prerogative. *Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies of the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!*" (Psalm 3:7-8)

Imagine a world in which every person who claims to love Jesus Christ would be content to simply take him at his word rather than invent scenarios designed to avoid it. I hope that you are finding this series beneficial. If you have any thoughts or comments on the questions or the answers that I have given, please feel free to bring it to my attention.

Wild Grapes

John Thompson

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? (Isaiah 5:1-4)

The nation of Israel, i.e. the Northern Kingdom, fell to Assyria in about 720 BC. During the final years of Israel's decline, Isaiah prophesied to the Southern Kingdom, the nation of Judah, and warned them of their destruction that would come by way of Babylon. This took place between 606 and 586 BC, a little over 100 years after Isaiah prophesied. God is a Spirit, an eternal being, but that in no way exempts Him from emotional reaction to the disobedience of His people. The above passage conveys God's hurt and disappointment over the unfaithfulness of His people as well as any passage in the Bible.

The story of His people is indeed a love song. God was motivated by love to plan and purpose for His people, and He refers to them as a vineyard. It is not hard to spot a vineyard while driving along some country road. A vineyard has definite boundaries; one can see where it begins and ends. It is easily distinguished from its

surroundings. In the above passage God's love for His vineyard is clearly evident by the care and attention to detail He devoted to it. He did not just place it anywhere, but selected a "very fertile hill." He labored to dig up the ground and he cleared it of stones. He planted His vineyard, not with second-rate vines, but with choice vines, that is vines of His own choosing. Not stopping there, he provided for the protection of His vineyard by building a watchtower in its midst. And then He made ready for the harvest, hewing out a wine vat. From the planning stage to final preparation for the harvest God had given His vineyard every advantage to produce grapes. And so that is what He looked for, anticipated, expected. But it is not what He received. His vineyard yielded wild grapes, not the cultivated fruit He expected. And so He asked, through Isaiah, "What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" If one cannot sense God's disappointment and sadness, then one's heart has become hardened. Isaiah chapter 5 goes on to describe some of the calamity God would bring against His unfaithful people.

Is there a lesson here for us? Well, we sing *I Want to Be a Worker*. Where is that work to be done? "I will work, I will pray, I will labor every day in the vineyard of the Lord." Verse 1 begins, "I want to be a worker for the Lord, I want to love and trust His holy word..." Therein lies the key to bearing the grapes that God looks for and not the wild grapes that are so often produced. Too many religious people pay lip service to God's word, but do not love it and trust it enough. Referring back to Isaiah, chapter 5, Judah is indicted by these words: *they do not regard the deeds of the Lord, or see the work of his hands. Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge.* (Isaiah 5:12b-13a) Too many religious leaders bring a gospel different from the one the Holy Spirit delivered to the Apostle Paul and which he delivered to others. Read about the seriousness of bringing a different gospel in Galatians 1:6-10. Too many Bible teachers do not speak as the oracles of God. See 1 Peter 4:11. Too many preachers are not willing to speak the whole counsel of God. See Acts 20:27. Too many want to attract a gathering of disciples to themselves. See Acts 20:30. Too many brethren are unwilling to listen to the truth when it is taught. Well did Isaiah prophecy of such:

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of

the Lord; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 30:8-11)