

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)

*world, but be transformed by the renewal of your
mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will
of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
(Romans 12:1-2)

The Christian life is a life of freedom, no
longer enslaved by worldly lust. Take the time to read
Galatians 5 and be reminded what it means to walk
by the Spirit.

NOTE

Brother JC McDonald (uncle of Richelle, Gina, Sherry,
and Terry) passed away at 10:30 Thursday evening from
injuries sustained in a car accident. Let us keep his family
in our prayers as they mourn his passing yet rejoice in his
hope.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda
Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Robert Brundige, Susie
Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and
stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice
Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron,
Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean
Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, The Shadburne
family, the McDonald family

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 24

June 5, 2016

“He’s Giddy”

Adam Litmer

That’s what JD Shadburne told me last Wednesday evening mere hours
before his brother went from this life to the next. Well aware that his race was
moments from being run, Christian’s mind was filled with thoughts of meeting
his Lord. Several of us had the opportunity to attend Christian’s visitation and
note the behavior of his family members. Their puffy eyes and tissues told us
how much they were going to miss Christian. Their smiles and laughs told us
that a peace that passes understanding fills their hearts as they consider
Christian’s faith and the Lord’s promises. That faithful family knows that
they’ll see him again in Paradise if they stay true unto death as their beloved
son and brother did.

As I consider JD’s words and what I observed at the visitation I am
struck by the “rightness” of it all. It makes me want to “Amen!” the entire
situation. This “rightness” exists because of our extraordinarily gracious and
merciful God. The word that kept coming into my mind over these last few
months as Christian’s disease progressed and the outcome became increasingly
obvious was the word “confidence.” Christian and his family had it in spades.
This was not confidence that his cancer would be healed, though they clearly
believed in God’s power to completely remove it were doing so His will. No,
theirs was a confidence that the final outcome of the disease was leading to
something wonderful for Christian. *He was going home.*

At the end of his life, Paul said, *I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a
crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me
on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing* (2
Timothy 4:7-8). Paul could say these things because of the assurance faithful
saints are blessed with. *I write these things to you who believe in the name of*

the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13) I have stood near the casket of the recently departed many times and watched a distraught family with fixed smiles do their very best to put on a brave face. I saw none of that last Sunday afternoon. Their smiles were not painted on and their confident demeanor was not a brave façade. Indeed, they wore the smiles of the blessed confidence our gracious God provides to His saints.

The psalmist makes a wonderful statement in Psalm 116:15. He says, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.* How wonderful that the one who lives for God throughout life need not fear dying. Indeed, the Lord Himself considers their deaths precious. He is the reason their minds can be filled with a calm that others simply do not possess. Many unbelievers claim they have no fear of death. Perhaps. Yet they also have no hope in it. Saints do for they know it is but a doorway ushering them into Paradise (Luke 16:19-31). Abraham is there, Lazarus is there, and now Christian is there.

“He’s giddy.” The unbeliever will never fathom that. To him it’s a statement completely incongruous with the situation that led to it. Yet the faithful saint smiles upon hearing it and nods appreciatively. Indeed, they cannot fathom it being otherwise. Christian’s father told me, “My son is with the Lord.” His brother told me, “He’s giddy.” Amen. May we all be grateful for our extraordinary Lord and God who makes the death of His saint a moment of victory rather than despair.

The Awful Power of Lust

John Thompson

In Matthew’s account of the temptations of Jesus several lessons cannot be denied.

First, Jesus was tempted by Satan. In fact, the Devil is called the tempter in Matthew 4:3. What should we learn thus far? Satan is still hard at it today trying to bring about our spiritual downfall as he tried to do with Jesus.

Second, the Devil approached Jesus when he was in a very vulnerable condition, not having eaten for 40 days. What else should we learn? Satan has never stopped timing his temptations to coincide with our most vulnerable moments. What we often do not realize is that we are just as vulnerable when we are intensely passionate about something as when we are ill or depressed, or lacking self-confidence. Passion often silences reason making way for decisions

that please Satan rather than God, and our exercise of poor judgments based upon faulty reasoning.

Third, Satan presented his temptations in such a manner that they dovetailed perfectly with man’s penchant to be consumed by desire. 1 John 2:16 identifies those desires in this manner: *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* So, Satan told Jesus to turn stones into bread to appease his hunger. From the pinnacle of the temple, Satan, believing Jesus to be full of pride in his deity, enticed Jesus to prove it. Furthermore, Satan instructed Jesus to see all of the wealth and the glory of the kingdoms of the world. Satan knew that human beings will lust after the things they see. What lesson is there for us? We must learn to recognize when our desires for the things of the world are in danger of becoming lust, when we begin to be controlled and consumed by those desires.

Fourth, Jesus effectively dealt with each temptation by quoting scripture. What is the lesson for us? We too can defeat Satan by our knowledge of the Word of God.

Philosophers and historians often define a period of time by referring to those years as the age of something or other. The age of reason, and the age of enlightenment come to mind. I believe our present time can and should be defined as the age of lust. In a very real sense lust rules our world. Our current leaders, those who want to be our leaders, those who lead other nations, those who are drawn in by promises of free this and free that, those who buy the deception that what some have gained through hard work really belongs to everyone are ruled by lust. Those who resort to violence to impose their beliefs on everyone and to deny others the freedom to speak out are ruled by lust. Those whose duty it is to ensure that justice prevails, yet are so selective in the exercise of their office that justice is mocked are ruled by lust. And Satan, having had his evil way, simply sits back and gleefully watches while lust rules.

Christians have chosen a different way of life, a way of life that is not conformed to the world, a way of life that is ruled by one passion only, that being an intense desire to please not Satan, not other people, not self, but God. It is a life transformed, not conformed. *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this*

