

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)

I encourage you to seek spiritual application in everything. Jesus often used daily occurrences familiar to his listeners to draw out spiritual applications. His inspired writers did the same. Indeed, take the time to study the prophets and you cannot help but notice how often the Father drew upon agriculture, weather, rivers, and countless other parts of nature that His people interacted with every day to impart profound spiritual truths. These lessons are everywhere and it will benefit us greatly to view things through an increasingly spiritual lens.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton,
Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Jake
Spivey, 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 McDonald family

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 32

July 31, 2016

Life—As God Intended It

Paul Fox

“And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23-24)

The word of God is clear. Christ came in order that we might have life abundant and eternal. Eternal life is the priceless possession of all who invite Christ into their hearts, but God's abundance is optional, that is, He does not force it upon us. When we entrust our hearts and our days to the one who created us, we experience abundance through the grace and sacrifice of His Son. But, when we turn our thoughts and direct our energies away from God's commandments we inevitably forfeit the spiritual abundance that might otherwise be ours.

Do you sincerely seek the riches that our Savior offers to those who give themselves to Him? If so, then follow Him completely without reservation. When you do, you will receive the love and abundance He has promised. Seek first the salvation available only in Jesus Christ and then claim the joy, the peace, and the spiritual abundance that the Shepherd offers His sheep. A life in Christ is abundant beyond measure, exceedingly ample, overwhelmingly able to flood us with spiritual benefits. Those benefits will be realized to their most profound and fullest extent beyond the grave when Jesus returns to take us home. But even now, in this life, there is an abundance of spiritual goodness to be had. Let's examine that life from four different, but closely connected, perspectives.

Living the life that Jesus asks of us is abundant in that it allows and encourages us to live a life that soars in realms so much higher than where the ungodly live. We can live above oppressions such as fear, superstition, shame, pessimism, guilt, anger, worry, and all of the negativity that drag people down and keep them from experiencing each day as a gift from God. The abundant life allows a person to start each day by saying, “Lord, I'm yours. Today belongs to

You. I give you all of my problems as I begin this new day. I know I'll grope, struggling to hang on. I know I may even stumble, but, more importantly, I also know that you are with me and will use every experience of my life to increase my ability to receive more and more strength from you."

The abundance provided by life in Jesus also gives us the ability to ignore ungodly influence. We are enabled to refuse to take our cues from those who operate their lives from a purely human perspective. We can feel secure in the truth of God's word and ignore all else even when untruth comprises the majority opinion. The abundant life in Christ Jesus amply supports us as we dare to stand for what is right in the sight of God without fear of ridicule or persecution. Those who live that abundant life have no need to please people because they thrive in the pleasure of God.

Abundance also offers a risking life. It dares us to attempt the seemingly impossible in the unwavering belief that all things are possible in Christ. The abundance is that of spiritual resources, not earthly ones. Consequently, it is immaterial; it does not consist of an accumulation of material things or "stuff." We can step out of our comfort zones knowing that we are well supplied with all that we need to accomplish the will of God. With the abundance supplied by God, we can take whatever risk God require us to take without the trap of worrying about losing "stuff."

Finally, the abundant life in Crist Jesus presents us with a releasing life. It loosens our grip on every earthly thing. Contentment in this life and the security of life eternal are found in God through His Son, not through money, possessions, status, or even the relationships with others we hold so dear. Those things are important because they are some of the ways God blesses us, but He never intended for us to clutch and cling to them as if our eternal lives depended upon them.

The abundant life in Christ Jesus releases us from a dependence upon earthly things; enables us to ignore the cues from those who operate their lives from a purely human perspective; prompts us to risk whatever it takes to be found approved of God; and to soar above anything that would drag us down to Satan's level. This abundant life has only one requirement: we must be willing to exchange our old life (our former way of living, choosing, thinking, and behaving) for that new life crafted and directed by the Lord. That new life does not come to us by claiming it is ours. Rather it is something we receive when we become citizens of the Messiah's kingdom.

Two Observations

Adam Litmer

Two observations from our time at the ocean a couple of weeks ago have stuck with me. The first has to do with currents and the second with a fishing boat.

Each day we would go out into the ocean and ride the swells. It's a very peaceful feeling. It becomes far less peaceful when those swells become waves that crash against the side of your head when you weren't quick enough to dive under the water. Whether a gentle swell or crashing wave the current that is present in both is constantly pulling and pushing you away from where you started. Every couple of minutes we'd look back to shore and have to correct our positioning to stay close to the pier leading to our beach house. We did not have to put forth any effort to drift from where we started; indeed, most of the time we were not even aware that it was happening. The only way we could determine that our course needed adjusting was to look back to our pier.

The same holds true for our spiritual positioning. Satan does not warn us when he's been able to slip into our hearts and orchestrate a drift. Do you think our brethren in Ephesus recognized that they had left their first love (Revelation 3:4)? Did our brethren in Laodicea know they had become lukewarm (Revelation 3:16)? Our brethren in Corinth recognized issues existed among them for we're told they wrote Paul about them (1 Corinthians 7:1), yet Paul's letters indicate far greater problems than they imagined existed. In each case drifting had occurred without our brethren aware that it was happening. Indifference and inaction is all that's required to drift. Determination and effort are requirements for firm planting. Satan isn't going to tell us when we start to drift, but God will. Let us keep a close eye on His Word and ourselves.

There was a fishing boat about fifty yards out from us trailing a net behind. I noticed that he would go about a hundred yards or so before returning the way he'd come. The way his net was dragging made it obvious that it was filling a little more with each pass. He kept going over the same area because he understood he may snag fish he missed the first time and also because fish who were not in the area before were there now. He went back and forth until his net was filled.

Evangelism is very much like that. Lexington, particularly on the campus and around the building, is such a transient city from a population perspective. People are constantly moving in and out for school and work. Potential prospects are constantly coming and going. In the area around the building I'm not sure we could reach a point where we've spoken to everyone simply because the individuals who make up everyone keep changing. It is also possible that the individual we spoke to a few years back has reached a different point in their life and will now be more receptive than they were before. We can't know without trying.

