

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

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)

search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

ANOTHER REASON TO REJOICE!

We have a new sister in Christ! Kasey Harrison made the most important decision she will ever make this past Wednesday when she put on Christ in baptism and submitted her life to her Lord. Let us pray for our new sister and encourage her as she strives to walk worthy of her calling.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Declan Weatherholt, The Banks' family, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Keia Burton, 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, William Roberts, Kip Pearce

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Hijacking God

Adam Litmer

Have you ever done or thought something and then immediately had to take yourself to task for it? Not long ago I observed someone marching with a sign held high. On that sign was a rainbow prominently displayed with words beneath promoting the homosexual agenda. It seems that almost every time we see rainbows on shirts, hats, or signs these days it is in promotion of that sinful lifestyle. I shook my head upon seeing the rainbow and wished I'd never have to see one again. Commence the task taking!

The rainbow does not belong to the homosexual agenda. It never has and it never will. They may be using it to promote sin, but it does not belong to them nor stand for what they'd have it stand for. Hear God on the origin of rainbows: *And God said, "This is the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."* God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." (Genesis 9:12-17)

The rainbow is a sign of God's faithfulness in remembering and keeping His promises. God determines the meaning of the rainbow, not a sinful group of people pushing a sinful agenda. Shame on me for momentarily forgetting that and allowing unbelievers to hijack God.

This effort to hijack the things of God, to seize them to further human schemes, is certainly not limited to the homosexual agenda. Just yesterday a sports reporter, in defending an athlete's decision to kneel rather than stand during the National Anthem in protest of what he believes to be police misconduct, cited Jesus as the "ultimate civil protester." He even exclaimed, "Don't any of these people ever read the Bible?" That's a great question that cuts both ways. When did Jesus ever organize a civil rally

or protest? When did he ever encourage others to do so? Luke 19:9-10 says, *And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'* Jesus said his purpose in coming to earth was to save the lost. He spent his time striving to reach the souls of men with the gospel message so that they could be saved, not organizing political or social rally's.

The rainbow is not a symbol for the homosexual agenda. Jesus Christ is not a symbol for modern day civil protesters. The cross is not the "t" at the end of a "coexist" bumper sticker. Perhaps the time has come for Christians to no longer be content with simply shaking our heads upon seeing or hearing these things but open our mouths to declare what *God* says they mean. If the church truly is "a pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15) then we bear an obligation in speaking up on its behalf. They may not accept the truth on these things, but they will hear it if I'm present. Shouldn't that be the determination of each Christian when confronted with such blatant misuse of the things of God?

One of the most powerful statements in Scripture comes from Habakkuk 2:20. *But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.* Whether it be false teachers, unbelievers advocating sinful agenda's, protest groups, or even *Christians*, no one has the right to hijack the things of God to further their own cause. To use His words or signs in ways other than He intended is presumptuous, arrogant, foolish, and sinful. *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* (Galatians 6:7)

Which Wisdom Do You Seek?

John Thompson

I took one of those Facebook personality tests the other night, the one that had to do with what kind of old person I would be. Now the test didn't know that I am already what many would consider old, so I had to answer some of the questions as if I was a young man again. Anyway, the test determined that the one word that would best describe me when I get old is "wise." Well, that answer is highly suspect, especially depending upon who you talk to. Coincidentally, wisdom is one of the major themes of the first three chapters of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Wisdom is certainly a highly important subject to think about, important enough for God to inspire Paul and other writers to set our minds right about it.

You see, people make three spiritually fatal mistakes concerning the subject of wisdom. Mistake number one is that a large group of people will believe a very small group of individuals, or even just one individual, to be so wise that they ought to follow that small group or single person. And so they do, very often to their doom in this life, and certainly in the life to come. Mistake number two occurs when the one, or ones, so

adored by their subjects as icons of wisdom and learning, glory in the praise they receive and then progresses from liking it, to wanting more of it, to believing it is their due, to demanding that it be continued and even increased. Mistake number three occurs when one's wisdom becomes so magnified in his own mind that it dominates all other wisdom, including the wisdom of God.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren, *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* (1 Corinthians 2:14) The idea that man's wisdom can compete with God's wisdom and win is one of the greatest self-deceptions man has ever come up with. God Himself has informed us through the prophet Isaiah that it is the height of absurdity to believe that man can even be on the same playing field with God with regard to wisdom. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* (Isaiah 55:8-9) Yet, time after time, man has sought out the thinking of other men, pursued it, embraced it, and lived by it to the corruption and exclusion of God's thoughts and God's ways.

Are we to conclude, then, that there is nothing redeemable with regard to man's wisdom? Not at all! God gave man a mind that is extraordinarily productive and effective when properly used. The mind of man functions at its highest level when he wisely turns to God and lives by the wisdom from above. The contrast between earthly wisdom and the wisdom from above is startling and, at the same time, comforting as described in James, chapter 3, verses 13-17. *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*

There is so much in God's word proving that the wisdom from above is so far superior and so much more to be desired than earthly wisdom that it is difficult to choose a passage with which to close out this short article. This passage from Proverbs 2:1-15 will do nicely.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding; If you seek it like silver and

