

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)

May we never cease learning about Jesus so that we might become more and more like him. “More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern; Spirit of God my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me. More about Jesus in His word, Holding communion with my Lord; Hearing His voice in every line, Making each faithful saying mine.” Noah was a righteous man, one who walked with God, and thus found favor in the eyes of the Lord. We, too, will grow in God’s favor as growth in knowledge translates into living righteously.

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

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 42

October 2, 2016

The Folly Of Jumping To Negative Conclusions

Adam Litmer

Israel was facing a potential national disaster. The eastern tribes erected a very large altar by the Jordan River. The western tribes heard about what they had done and arrayed themselves for battle against their kinsmen. They concluded that the altar was going to be used for worship. Had that been the case then sin would have come upon the entire assembly. However, they wisely refrained from attacking their brethren until they discussed the matter with them. It turned out that the altar erected by the eastern tribes wasn’t an altar in the classical sense of the word at all. It was a reminder that the Jordan River, which divided the eastern tribes from the western, did not nullify the fact that they were brethren. That altar was never intended for sacrifice. Had the western tribes immediately attacked their brethren without speaking to them first then a civil war would have occurred for absolutely no reason. Without pausing to consider why the eastern tribes had erected that altar, brother would have lifted sword against brother. What a tragedy that would have been! (The entire account may be read in Joshua 22:10-34)

Jumping to conclusions is not a wise thing. For some reason it seems as though the conclusions one jumps to are negative far more often than not. The common phrase “jumping to conclusions” speaks of those instances when someone hears or observes a thing and, without seeking any further information or explanation, instantly draws a conclusion on the matter. The western tribes seem to have been close to doing that very thing. Fortunately, they did not *want* to fight their brethren and sought explanation before acting further. Many fights and harsh words between brethren over the years have come about because someone(s) jumped to conclusions about something in which they should have sought further information and explanation.

Let us consider a fairly common scenario. Suppose that a brother or sister, either before or after an assembly, walks right past us without even

glancing at our extended hand or responding to our greeting. Now why would they do that? I suppose it *could* be rudeness, but should that be the conclusion we immediately jump to? Paul reminds us that “*love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*” (1Corinthians 13:7) Part of what these verses mean is that saints who love never want to assume or believe the worst about one another. But if not for rudeness, why would that brother or sister walk right past me without responding to my greeting? A number of reasons are possible.

1. They simply did not hear or notice me. This is very possible when parents and grandparents have their hands full with children or their own elderly parent(s).
2. Something is weighing on their mind. Family, work, school, or health concerns are very real. Perhaps their inattentiveness is because they are wrestling with one or more of those concerns at that very moment.
3. They are focusing on the content of their class, sermon, or talk. Often, even moments before worship begins, I am mentally reviewing my sermon. I have walked right past people and failed to hear their words because I have been deep in thought. Jackie has pointed out to me on more than one occasion that I failed to hear or notice someone for this very reason. If you have been one of them, I apologize!

The point is this: there is no reason to jump to negative conclusions about the brother or sister who fails to return our greeting. Indeed, such an occasion may even indicate that the brother or sister needs us to be a servant to them in some way. Their failure to acknowledge us could be a clue that this brother or sister needs us to ask after their welfare, or needs a pat on the back along with some encouraging words, or needs to sit down and talk with someone who is ready and willing to listen. Obviously, greetings in the foyer is far from the extent of this application.

In a society so adept at jumping to negative conclusions let us not be hasty to follow suit. Not only does it demonstrate a failure in love, it dampens the servant heart that should be blazing within the breast of every Christian.

Thoughts On Growth

John Thompson

Parents thrill at watching their children grow. Certain events, such as turning over, taking the first step, saying the first words, learning to read, graduating from high school, and so on, provide fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, and grandparents much about which to brag. They are the happenings that mark the progress of the child’s physical, mental, and emotional growth. No one who loves the child wants to be confronted with a diagnosis of failure to thrive.

However, growth should not be considered as something that only happens to children. Anyone, at any stage of life, can be said to have a failure to thrive, if progress appropriate to that stage of life is not taking place. Growth is essential, not only in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense as well.

When one first becomes a Christian, he or she is a “babe in Christ.” No one can doubt the importance of proper nourishment needed for that newborn spiritual baby to grow. “*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation*”—(1 Peter 2:2). Without a steady diet of the words of life contained in the Bible, a new Christian will suffer from a failure to thrive spiritually. There is no telling how many newborn Christians have died spiritually due to a failure to thrive.

But what about Christians who are older and more mature? Regardless of how old you are or how long you have been a Christian, are you still growing? Is spiritual growth any less important for you than it is for a babe in Christ? Without a doubt, a failure to thrive spiritually is just as potentially disastrous for you as it is for the newborn Christian? Consider 2 Peter 3:18, which says, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Was this letter written primarily to newborn Christians, or to those who had been Christians for some time? 2 Peter 1:2 identifies the recipients of this letter as “*those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours.*” Verse 12 further refers to the recipients as those who knew certain qualities and were established in them. Those qualities are faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love, and considerable time is needed for one to be established in them. So, even though the letter is written primarily to well-established Christians, Peter is still exhorting them to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

