

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
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Sebolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

message to the unrighteous, it is equally pleasant and comforting to the righteous. The message from God to man remains the same. Although it does not change, it has the power to change the hearts and minds of any sinner who will not leave it undisturbed. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.* (Romans 1:16) Open up your Bible, spend time with your Lord, and let His word do its intended work.

OUR MEETING BEGINS TODAY

Our meeting with Albert Dickson begins today. Albert is a fine Christian man and capable teacher of God's Word. We will all benefit from the fruits of Albert's efforts. Have you made your plans to attend?

NOTE

The congregation is in the process of preparing an updated directory. Please check that your information is correct by viewing the notebook in the vestibule. Please make corrections as needed.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Declan Weatherholt, David Sebolt, 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, Paul Lyda

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Potters And Clay

Adam Litmer

I appreciated brother Jamie's talk Wednesday evening. He began with Isaiah 64:8. *But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.* Jeremiah went into much greater detail with a similar illustration in Jeremiah 18:1-12. Paul borrowed from both Isaiah and Jeremiah in Romans 9. I encourage you to take a few moments and read all of those passages.

The potter/clay illustration is a powerful one. As far as I know no lump of clay has ever turned to the potter and questioned his designs for it. Further, no lump of clay has ever turned the tables on the potter and began molding *him*. Unfortunately, in his thoughts concerning God and Christ, I fear man seeks to do this very thing quite often.

Have you noticed whenever God is depicted in comic strips He is usually about two feet taller than everyone else? Besides a flowing white beard and robes there is usually nothing to tell Him apart from the people in the comic besides height. I'm afraid that in the mind of many people God is just a taller version of us. Is it any wonder that so many take for granted that God must think *exactly* as they think? Is it any wonder that, should they see themselves in the potter/clay analogy at all, they cast themselves in the role of the potter fashioning and molding a "god" of their own design?

Let me give you an example. David Gushee is an "evangelical" leader and author. I was made aware of an article of his entitled: "On LGBT Equality: Middle Ground Is Disappearing." While several of his statements interested me, I will share just two of them. In one place he asks, "whether religious institutions should be allowed to continue discriminating due to their doctrinal beliefs?" Later, speaking of those who cannot approve of the LGBT lifestyle because of their belief in Scripture, Mr. Gushee declares, "I believe I am defending the Religion of Jesus from intolerant ideologues like them. We will never, ever agree. Only God can judge."

I was struck by the way he framed the question in his first quote. Did you notice it? He frames conviction that the LGBT lifestyle is sinful based upon God's

statements in Scripture as “discriminating.” His language clearly demonstrates that he believes there is only one correct side on this and it is certainly not with those “discriminating” folks who simply take God at His Word. I also find it interesting that he concluded by declaring that only God can judge the question. I would agree with that sentiment wholeheartedly if Mr. Gushee were talking about God instead of “god”.

God is the Creator of all things and dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16), while “god” is a product of one’s own personal feelings, desires, and biases. God’s thoughts and ways transcend those of men (Isaiah 55:8-9), while “god’s” thoughts and ways are identical to the person reflected in the mirror. God determines the truth on all matters without being intimidated or informed by the angry shout of wicked people (Psalm 2), while “god” is only too happy to follow with whatever way the wind is blowing. God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4), while “god” dwells in millions of minds around the world holding opposed and contradictory viewpoints. Slapping a capital “G” on “god” does not make him God!

Beloved, there is no molding of God. The one who declared I AM WHO I AM does not take His cues from us. He has no sharp edges that need rounding; no points that need filing down. I AM WHO I AM is perfect in every sense of that word. Perceived imperfections in His character, plan, and/or revealed will is a sign of *my* flaws, *my* shortcomings, *my* ignorance, never His. I’ve not the wisdom, strength, character, or perfection to put Him on the wheel to be molded; none of us do. If I would be in a proper relationship with Him, understanding my place before I AM WHO I AM, I must be willing to secure myself upon His wheel and *be* shaped. Are you willing to do the same?

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

A Thought Provoking Statement

John Thompson

Frequently, in my reading, I come across statements and phrases that stand out because they are written so much better than I could have written.

One such statement comes from a western novel I am currently reading titled *The Rangeland Avenger* by Max Brand. Of the main character in the book, Riley Sinclair, the author wrote, “(He) was not a religious man. Luck was his divinity. He left God and heaven and hell inside the pages of the Bible, undisturbed.” Riley was content with trusting his physical and spiritual well-being to luck. Should things go his way and he prospered, it was all due to luck. Should things not go well for him, he had every confidence his luck would soon return. After all, luck was his god and would not abandon him for long.

What need had he of learning about heaven and hell? How could heaven be any better than the best this earth had to offer? Hell was such a nasty subject, a most disturbing place. Lucky people have neither need nor desire to know of a place where *The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* (Matthew 13:41-42)

And so, Riley awakened every morning determined not to examine the Scriptures, content to trust his luck, just like so many now. We have favorite idioms that adequately express man’s reluctance to examine topics that might be disturbing, idioms that we all have used from time to time. “Out of sight, out of mind” sums up the attitude that as long as something is not directly in front of me I don’t have to think about it. “Let sleeping dogs lie” says that I had best leave a certain subject alone or I will find myself in serious trouble. I have no desire to “open up a can of worms.” People will often say to others, “Two things I never talk about: politics and religion.” Consequently, the Bible sits on a shelf, or remains in a night stand drawer, unopened, unread, gathering dust, left undisturbed.

God surely wants His message to mankind to be opened, read, studied, meditated upon, and put into practice. Furthermore, He meant it to be a message able to disturb those living in sin, without God in their lives: people like Riley Sinclair. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* Reproof and correction can be very disturbing, yet that is what the scriptures do for the man of God. One who is not a man of God, not a Christian, will discover how sin separates man from God and learn about the indescribable work of love by God on man’s behalf.

The message of the Bible can strip away all of the facades and pretenses man employs to define the boundaries of his comfort zone. But the Bible is designed to jar man out of his comfort zone. Consider Hebrews 4:12. *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* However, people, even sinful people, resist the discomfort of being disturbed by God’s word regardless of how it is delivered. King Ahab, as he saw Elijah, the prophet, approaching called out, “*Is it you, you troubler of Israel?*” (1 Kings 18:17). As Paul reasoned with Felix about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “*Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.*” (Acts 24:25)

Leaving the Bible undisturbed because the message contained therein is upsetting and disturbing to the unrighteous one is foolish. As disturbing is the

