

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 Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

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

apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago (Titus 1:1-2). Our trust in God's promises is the reason we have hope as an anchor of our soul (Heb. 6:13-20). All of this is possible because of the authority of God.

God's authority should never be seen as a burden. Rather, we have every reason to be thankful for who God is and the authority He possesses and shows. *O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You* (Psa. 89:8).

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, 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, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda

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Beauty In the Eye of God

John Thompson

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is a well-known and often expressed idiom that probably had its origin in the third century B.C. in Greece according to one Internet source. The thought expressed by the idiom has been stated in a variety of ways by poets and other writers, including Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, and David Hume. The expression, as we generally say it, may have first appeared in the book, *Molly Bawn* by Margaret Wolfe Hungerford published in 1878. The statement simply means that different things are pleasant to the senses of different people. I love Bluegrass Music, but my wife only tolerates it. It is not nearly as pleasing to her ear as it is to mine. Many people find poetry to be so much more beautiful than other forms of literature.

Beauty is much-sought after by human beings. We dress ourselves up; we make ourselves up; we primp and trim and spruce ourselves up. We go to beauty salons; we wander up and down store aisles containing beauty products which we take home to work on our skin, our hair, our eyes, our lips, our nails, etc. We spend a great deal of time and other resources to present ourselves in such a way that we are attractively viewed by others. While such endeavors are not inherently wrong, they can become that way when we work harder to meet some arbitrary standard of beauty set by those we don't even know that we work to be beautiful to our God.

When God comes to your mind, do you think of Him as beautiful? His power is beyond our comprehension and has surely created beauty in our world, but do we equate power with beauty? The Bible speaks of the Lord's glory and the praise that is due Him, but do we equate His glory with beauty? Psalm 27:4 says, *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.* Isaiah prophesied, *Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.* (33:17) What is there about God

that the Bible essentially equates with beauty? What is there about God that collects all of His attributes, such as love and power and kindness and severity, patience and long-suffering into a single essence? It is His holiness, His separateness, so separate that there is none like Him. He is superior in every possible way, so far and above everything else that He created everything else. He is superior in love, in patience, in power, and so on and so on. And His holiness is a thing of beauty, a beauty superior to all other beauty. *“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”* (Exodus 15:11) If only we might learn to desire that beauty above all else.

Can we even dream of approaching such holiness? Can we live in such a way that God’s beauty of holiness becomes our beauty of holiness? The Apostle Peter encourages us to strive for that very thing. *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”* (1 Peter 1:14-16) Do you remember what God said to Samuel when he examined Jesse’s sons to select the next king of Israel? *But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* (1 Samuel 16:7) Peter stated a principle that applies to all Christians when he addressed the impact for good that wives can have on their unbelieving husbands. *Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.* (1 Peter 3:3-4)

Let us all do our very best to be holy as God is holy in all our conduct so that we might *Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.* (1 Chronicles 16:29); *so that we might Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.* (Psalm 29:2)

Are You Thankful For God’s Authority?

Doy Moyer

God is Creator. Because of Who He is, He has the inherent right to command and expect obedience. He has the right to tell us what to do, how to think, how to live, how to talk, and how to dress. We, as His creatures have no right to kick back or demand answers from Him. Like it or not, we are under His authority. But now, why wouldn’t we like it? Rather than looking at this as some sort of drudgery, why not be

thankful for God’s authority? After all, if we wish to glorify God, we can only do so by recognizing the power that only belongs to Him.

Here, then, are some reasons we can be thankful for God’s authority:

1. Because God’s authority means He is the Judge, not me, or you, or anyone else. I don’t have to worry about untangling all the sticky questions about eternity. I don’t need to worry about pleasing other people, especially those in the world. I just need to concern myself with pleasing and glorifying Him based on what He has revealed (**2 Cor. 5:8-9; John 12:48**). Consequently, we may say with Paul, *to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord* (**1 Cor. 4:3-4**). In the final analysis, each of us as individuals will stand before God. What others think at that point will be irrelevant.

2. Because God’s authority is what gives power to grace. Grace means nothing unless it comes from one who has the power to give it. Sometimes grace is pitted against a stress on authority, but the two go together. It is true that authority can exist without grace, but it is not possible for real grace to exist without authority. Recall Jesus’ healing of the paralytic in Mark 2. When he saw the man’s faith, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven. The people reacted by saying that only God could forgive sins, to which Jesus responded, *Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.* (**Mark 2:8-11**) Without the authority inherent in Jesus, the man’s sins would have remained. God’s authority means that He can provide the grace needed to forgive sins. Without His authority, our sins would remain.

3. Because God’s authority means He has the power to fulfill His promises. People sometimes promise what they cannot give. Think of the empty promises given by fallible people who strive for political power, or the disappointment we feel when someone promised something without the ability to deliver. This will never happen with God. Because He has all authority, He has complete control over the promises that He has given, and He will not disappoint. Therefore, we may have the same faith as Paul when promised that the ship he was on would not lose anyone: *Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told* (Acts 27:25). Paul began his epistle to Titus with these reassuring words: *Paul, a bond-servant of God and an*

