

**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)

that if we avoid places/things that tempt us, then we are shutting sin down from having a place in our life (Romans 13:14). Our mindset should be that of a soldier, someone willing to go as far as it takes to accomplish our job. No matter how hard, we are taught that God has put nothing in our way that we can't beat (1 Corinthians 10:13). So, we can take comfort in knowing we have the tools to win. And most importantly, we can also be supremely confident in knowing our God is always willing to forgive if we ever do stumble (1 John 1:9). Never cease to be sheep willing to fight sin. If we do fight we can rightfully say that we find a place next to so many of the faithful who have already won their battles.

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

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 50

November 20, 2016

Lies And Truth

John Thompson

Jerry has just had an automobile accident. We see him on the phone with his former insurance agent, Jessica. Jessica has to inform him that he no longer has coverage with that particular insurance company, having recently dropped his coverage in favor of another company. When Jessica tells Jerry that she cannot help him, she hears the despair in his voice as he begins to sob. She sympathetically asks, "Jerry, are you crying?" Not wanting to admit his desperation, Jerry responds, "I just bit my tongue."

You may recognize the above scenario as a current automobile insurance television commercial. Commercials and advertisements influence the viewing public in a variety of ways. Everyone understands that they promote particular products as being superior to all others, attempting to entice viewers to purchase those products. But commercials and advertisements are influential in much more subtle ways. To the degree that they incorporate lifestyles and activities God has declared sinful, they normalize and legitimize those life styles and activities. They proclaim them to be perfectly acceptable, even preferable in certain situations.

Consider the automobile insurance commercial referenced above. Rather than admit the truth that, in his moment of weakness, he is crying, Jerry lies, saying, "I just bit my tongue." His lie is presented in the commercial as a perfectly acceptable way to cover his weakness and embarrassment. Lying in these kinds of situations has become a practiced technique of protecting our egos in our society. If we are not careful, we will not only fail to recognize the lie but we will, without even the slightest prick to our conscience, lie to cover our own moments of weakness and embarrassment.

The Bible is very clear about lying and truth. They are exact opposites. They cannot coexist. One eliminates the other. God loves truth; in fact, He is the originator of truth. Satan, however, loves lying and is the originator of it. John 8:44 describes Satan as “a murderer from the beginning.” The passage goes on to say that Satan *has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* In contrast to Satan, Proverbs 6:16-19 informs us that *There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.* Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is impossible for God to lie.

So, the lesson here is that we should not be taken in by the subtle message that lying is perfectly acceptable which is so prevalent in today’s commercials, ads, slogans, euphemisms, politically correct language, and everyday expressions. Rather, let us look forward to being in heaven where God lives and where lying cannot exist. Consider what is said of the 144,000 worshippers spoken of in Revelation 14:5, *and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.* If we intend to be in heaven where no lie can exist, then we must speak the truth to others. Ephesians 4:15 says, *Rather, speaking the **truth** in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.* Verse 25 of Ephesians 4 says *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the **truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.* In addition, we must gratefully accept the truth when it is spoken to us. Paul asked, in Galatians 4:16, *Have I then become your enemy by telling you the **truth**?* One who tells us the truth is our friend, not our enemy.

Fighting Sheep

Alexander Banks

Certain taught lessons make us grow immediately. Hearing about what needs to get done benefits us right away. It helps because reminding ourselves of the lesson and preparing for the task ahead gets our mind in the correct state it needs to be in. But nothing quite beats the real thing once it’s at our doorstep. In

many areas of our life how many times have we prepared and prepped for something, yet when the clock strikes zero, we might find ourselves a little overwhelmed? Whether it’s in school, work, or a personal project, it can be easy to approach everything in the correct way, yet still struggle. Sometimes taking all our hard work in lessons/preparation and actually applying them when it’s needed is difficult. No doubt this idea can be seen in our spiritual lives as well.

I can think of many times I have heard lessons on resisting temptation. It’s one of the fundamental messages inside the bible. We obey God, and therefore resist temptation because that goes against everything to do with God. Doing so we accomplish the task given to us. But how many times have we prepared or even thought of a specific temptation and still struggled? It is important to remember that resisting sin isn’t easy. If it was easy to resist sin, we’d have a lot more people in the building, and a lot of people living better lives in our society. When we realize that resisting sin isn’t easy, what exactly is the response? What helps us fight temptation? Ephesians 6:10-17 tells us what our arsenal is. The “*armor of God*”. We have everything we need with us, right now in the bible. We can read of how faithful followers resisted struggles as well, which should give encouragement. Daniel, David, Elijah, and so many more.

We, as Christians, are often referred to as Jesus’ flock of sheep. He is called the Good Shepherd among many other names. Few animals are as harmless and helpless as the docile sheep. For us, the idea is that we are protected and guided by His (our shepherd’s) way. What He says is best for us. What He wants is what we need to want. However, unlike sheep in the real world, we don’t just roll over when left alone. As already mentioned, we have been given tools found in the bible to combat sin. This does not mean we are invincible once we learn to wield them. Paul reminds us of that, “*Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus*”, (Philippians 3:12). So let us be ready to fight sin and temptation when it arises. Let’s be willing to wield our weapons because the opponent we face is not unwilling to wield his.

Being a Christian is a constant fight. We are always on alert and always prepared for our adversary (1 Peter 5:8). We can be confident that once we change our lives and commit to God, our own sin is dead. We can be confident in knowing

