

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)

of God helps to train the child of God for this very thing (Titus 2:11-14). It is true that we will never earn or merit our salvation. Even so, we must not allow such comments to blind us to very clear statements made throughout Scripture requiring the child of God to live a life of *God's* choosing.

I hope that this article has been helpful to the one who requested comments upon the topics discussed.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Larry Billitor, Julie and Elijah Patton, Declan Weatherholt, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Vicky Litmer, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Baker family, Randy Cates, Greg Litmer, The Smith family

# University Heights Messenger

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**From The Question/Suggestion Box**

Adam Litmer

The Question/Suggestion Box in the foyer contained a note asking that something be said about the differences in what the Bible says about issues in comparison to what much of the world says about them. I will go in the order the note suggested.

The note begins by listing "confession" with "say the sinner's prayer" attached. In Matthew 10:32-33 we hear the following from the mouth of Jesus: *So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father in who is in heaven.* To acknowledge (or confess) Jesus is much more than uttering a handful of words. It is taking up one's cross and following him in everything for the remainder of one's life (Matthew 16:24-26). The beautiful hymn "Prince of Peace, Control My Will" contains in its third stanza some of the most important lyrics we sing in worship to our Lord. "May Thy will, not mine, be done; may Thy will and mine be one." To confess one's faith in Jesus Christ is to openly and without reservation state that the will of Jesus Christ shall be the controlling factor in all things. This is done in thought, word, and deed every day. When Scripture speaks of confessing or acknowledging Jesus Christ this is what it means.

The "sinner's prayer" is an invention of man appearing centuries after the establishment of the church and completion of God's written revelation. One may search the New Testament end to end a thousand times and will never find an example of a sinner saying a prayer to

become a child of God or being told to say a prayer to become a child of God. It is unnecessary to consider the few passages proponents of the “sinner’s prayer” use in an effort to justify their claims as the context of each of them easily refutes their position.

The note next asks for comments on “belief” with “just believe, have faith” attached. Perhaps the most famous statement in all of Scripture shows the importance of belief in a memorable way. *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* Seeing how belief is inseparably connected to salvation it is imperative that we allow Scripture to show us what saving belief is. Abraham is often referred to as the “father of the faithful.” In describing the blessing of being a fellow heir of the promises given to Abraham, Paul says, *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherents of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.* (Romans 4:16) Abraham’s faith is to be our model. What did his faith look like? You may refresh your memory by reading Genesis 12-25. Abraham’s faith was trusting, active, and obedient. We are fellow heirs only if we share his belief.

God speaks of another type of belief, or faith, in Scripture. It is a “faith” that says pious sounding words but does not act upon them. It is a “belief” that admits the existence of God but does not translate to trusting, active, obedient faith like that of Abraham. It is called “dead” and struggles to distinguish itself from the “faith” of demons (James 2:14-26).

Next the note speaks to “baptism” and attaches “infant baptism, once saved always saved.” The ability to acknowledge one’s sins, recognize helplessness apart from the Lord, and demonstrate faith in Jesus Christ are connected to every example of baptism we have in Scripture. An infant or young child is incapable of those things. What’s more, their souls are not in a lost condition until they choose sin over obeying the commands of God (Romans 7:9). If someone questions the necessity of baptism a series of questions should prove helpful. Does one need to have their sins washed

away (Acts 22:16)? Does one need to put on Christ (Galatians 3:27)? Does one need to contact the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:2-7)? Does one need to be saved (1 Peter 3:21)? Such questions should penetrate the honest heart and lead to more careful thought and study.

As far as the doctrine of “once saved, always saved” is concerned; the faithful child of God can know that he or she is saved and take great comfort from that knowledge (1 John 5:13). They maintain this blessed relationship to their Lord as they continue to follow Him (John 10:1-4, 14-15). However, should they choose to rebel against Jesus, which demonstrates a lack of love (John 14:15), they no longer meet the conditions of being in a saved relationship with Jesus Christ. Should one argue conditions do not exist the only remedy is closer study of God’s Word. Passages such as Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12; 6:4-6; and 10:26-31 demonstrate that one once saved can indeed fall away.

The penultimate topic on the note is “repentance.” The importance of repentance is found in the twin statements of Luke 13:3, 5. *No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.* The Psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 are sometimes referred to as the “Penitential Psalms”) do a magnificent job of showing us what repentance looks like. It is emotional and spiritual turmoil over sin. This turmoil comes from one’s recognition that he or she has broken faith with God. This recognition leads them to seek God’s forgiveness as well as determining to reverse course and do right going forward. Repentance happens prior to baptism (Acts 2:38) and whenever a child of God chooses to sin (Acts 8:13, 22).

The final topic listed on the note is “walk worthy.” Paul informs Christians of the need to walk in a manner worthy of their calling in Ephesians 4:1. He explains what he means by that statement in the remainder of the letter which demonstrates that every aspect of one’s life falls within the purview of God. Jesus must be crowned King of the Christian’s life and allowed to direct every inch of it. Indeed, the grace



