

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)

**From The Mouth Of Jesus**

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure  
hidden in a field, which a man found and  
covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells  
all that he has and buys that field.*

-Matthew 13:44

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jared Potter and the Ray family, Larry Billitor,  
Bill and Roberta Moreland, Declan  
Weatherholt, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton,  
Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis  
Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Greg and 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, The Smith family

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 9--Number 22

May 14, 2017

**Examining A Response**

Adam Litmer

Not long ago a man who claims to love Christ and Scripture was asked the following question: *Do we play any role in our salvation.* In his response, he cited Ephesians 2:8 and said “we are saved by grace alone through faith alone.” From there he stated that grace cannot be earned or merited and thus there is no role for us to play in our salvation. There are two thoughts expressed in his response that I want to consider in this article.

First, the Bible nowhere says that we are saved by “grace alone through faith alone.” Paul’s actual words are, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* Many like to add the word “alone” after grace and faith, which Paul did not do. They make Paul’s words nonsensical for if one is saved by grace “alone” than he cannot be saved by faith “alone” and vice versa. Adding to God’s Word in an effort to promote a particular position is exceedingly dangerous (2 John 9-10).

Second, to claim that there is no role for one to play in his or her salvation is simply untrue. When God calls upon us to obey Him He is not instructing us to earn grace (which is impossible) but to prove that we have saving faith (which is a necessity). This can

be demonstrated any number of ways but for the purposes of this article we will consider Galatians 5:19-25. *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, **let us also walk by the Spirit**.*

Consider the following thoughts:

- Galatians was written to Christians (Galatians 1:2-3).
- The Galatian brethren were being warned about the works of the flesh for at least a second time (5:21b).
- To make a practice of the works of the flesh ensures that one will not inherit the kingdom of God (5:21b).
- Saints are not to live according to the flesh (controlled by passion and sinful desires) but are to walk by the Spirit (5:25).
- Paul's word "walk" is *stoicheo* and means "to be in line with." Thus, saints are to actively and purposefully seek "to be in line with" the Spirit.
- We know the Spirit's will through the revelation passed on to inspired men (2 Peter 1:20-21).

-The Spirit says that those belonging to Jesus Christ "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." In *this* passage, Paul speaks not of something done to us but something done by us (5:24).

Taking all of the above together we arrive at this conclusion: Christians are to walk in line with the Spirit. We accomplish this by doing what He says. As those who have crucified their sinful passions and desires we must not revive them and walk according to the flesh. Those who *do* choose to walk according to the flesh will never inherit the kingdom of God, even if they bear the name Christian.

So, do we play any role in our salvation? Yes. Does this mean that we are earning our salvation? No. Perhaps the most pertinent consideration in a discussion of this kind is the nature of saving faith. While we have not the room to explore it in detail Paul has shown us that saving faith is walking by the Spirit. The only way to know if we're doing that is by paying attention to what He has said, not in some ill-defined whisper into our hearts, but through the revelation of Scripture. Obeying what is revealed therein is not earning one's salvation, but proving one has saving faith (James 2:17-18).

*The congregational meeting will be this evening at 5. All members of University Heights are encouraged to attend.*



