

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

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:2-4

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

John Thompson, Declan Weatherholt, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Smith family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell's father, Bruce Feltner, Holly Spartman

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Arm Yourselves

John Thompson

What sense would it make for one to go into battle unarmed, having neither the ability to defend oneself nor to make any sort of headway towards the goal of the conflict? All the unarmed soldier can do is occupy a bit of space until he is eliminated. Consequently, an army of unarmed soldiers would be an enormous waste.

Furthermore, it makes no more sense to go into battle only partially armed, especially when a full complement of arms is available. Such is the admonition given at the beginning of the well-known passage in Ephesians 6 regarding the armor of God. *Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.* (Ephesians 6:11-13)

The forces against the Christian are formidable. They are not of our human experience. I would be hard pressed to point out to another person those *spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*, or the *cosmic powers over this present darkness*. What do such things look like? How do I know when one is right in front of me, ready to do battle, to take me on? How can I fight something I cannot even see? Answers to such questions are beyond the scope of this short article,

but one thing is sure: we don't have a chance without putting on the **whole** armor of God.

Ephesians 6:14-17 goes on to delineate the individual pieces of the armor of God: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes by which one is shod with the readiness given by the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. If we have been a Christian long we have heard at least one sermon on the passage in Ephesians 6. It is a passage of scripture ready-made for a memorable sermon. I have used the text a handful of times in the few sermons I have preached over the years. Full-time gospel preachers, no doubt, have preached on the whole armor of God many, many times. It is a beautiful and vital text for the Christian to consider and meditate on.

Yet there is another aspect of being fully armed that is brought out elsewhere in the scriptures. One can be clothed in all of the best gear to protect his body during combat, and he can have with him the most appropriate weapon against every conceivable danger that might arise, but if his attitude is not right, then he is not fully armed and remains highly vulnerable. The passage to be considered is 1 Peter 4:1-2. *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves** with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passion but for the will of God.*

Jesus knew his purpose here on Earth, and he was fully aware of the rejection he would receive from the Jews that would ultimately lead to his crucifixion on the cross. His mind-set or attitude is nowhere better expressed than in Philippians 2:6-8: *Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* Christ's

state of mind is not simply presented for Christians to be aware of, it is presented as the way to be. Philippians 2:5 states (Amplified Version) *Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to him as your example in selfless humility.]*

It takes a huge amount of humility to suffer for righteousness' sake. To refrain from retaliation; to love the enemy that is spitting in your face; to do good to those who persecute you; to be controlled by the will of the Father just as Jesus was requires the degree of humility that Jesus had. It is a divine state of mind that we are to develop and maintain that will enable us to *withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.* And it will give us divine strength to press forward the battle against evil even knowing that suffering, perhaps even suffering to the point of death, awaits us. *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves** with the same way of thinking.*

Prince of peace, control my will; bid this struggling heart be still: bid my fears and doubting's cease: hush my spirit into peace.

Thou has bought me with thy blood, opened wide the gate to God; Peace I ask, but peace must be, Lord, in being one with thee.

May thy will, not mine be done; May thy will and mine be one; Chase these doubting's from my heart, Now thy perfect peace impart.

Savior, at thy feet I fall, thou, my life, my God, my all; Let thy happy servant be one forevermore with thee.

Mark Your Calendar!

The Summer Bible Study Series is June 25-30. Brother Don Wright will be showing us what the Bible teaches about building strong families.

