

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

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rick Small (It has been determined that Rick will need to undergo chemotherapy. As of this writing I am unaware of how much or when it will begin. Let us keep Rick and Kim in our prayers), the Collins and Daniels family, John Thompson, Mary Weatherholt, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Ed Allison, The Bays and Robbins family, 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 Ward and Thacker family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell's father, Bruce Feltner, Harleigh Spartman, Fay Thomas, Mattie Johnson, the brethren in Texas and Louisiana.

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Rescue the Perishing

John Thompson

Hurricane Harvey has made its mark, leaving a huge, ugly scar on the Texas and Louisiana landscape and significantly disrupting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. It may turn out to be the worst natural disaster in American history. For almost a week the news channels have been dominated by scenes of the destruction along with projections of additional damage should certain reservoirs and dams be overwhelmed. Amongst the reports of devastation, however, have been wonderful, exciting, and courageous rescues. How inspiring to see and hear the relief and gratitude felt by those who probably would have died had not someone come to their rescue!

But there is another disaster underway affecting the spiritual welfare of untold billions of people the world over. It is not a disaster that threatens physical lives; rather it is a disaster that threatens eternal lives. It is a disaster that gets virtually no coverage on the airwaves. No helicopter flies over with camera operators leaning out of open doors providing video to accompany reporters' commentary. And no reporter recognizes that the vast majority of people are heading for *the gate [that] is wide and the way [that] is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.* (Matthew :14) Rescue attempts receive no news coverage at all. No reporter stops in his search for news to interview a Christian teaching another how to become a Christian. No one recently baptized for the remission of his sins is asked, "How does it feel to be saved?" The greatest disaster of all and the infrequent

rescues from the clutches of sin that do occur go unnoticed and unreported.

Some news reports of the Harvey Hurricane Disaster are now turning to the recovery phase. Politicians, dignitaries, executive officers of relief organizations, volunteer leaders, and others are being given opportunity by the major news networks to boast of their efforts to provide needed goods and services. Earlier a Walmart spokesperson was telling of the company's donation of \$20 million dollars to the relief fund. The reporter went on to say that many companies and businesses were also donating. There is no telling how many people will benefit from such massive donations, but no one entity will be able to donate enough to provide for all those who need. The need is too great, and the assets are too little.

But the greatest disaster of all, that of lost souls, has received the greatest donation of all, a donation so large, so precious, so divine that it can provide for all disaster victims. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16) This donation was planned long before there was a world in which disasters could take place and people to experience them. It is divinely planned, given, and carried out. It is always available, always sufficient, never spoils, and never has to be replenished. *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.* (Romans 6:10) *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,* (1 Peter 3:18).

As hard as it was to look at the scenes of destruction, it was a pure pleasure to see the rescue efforts and one could not help but be overjoyed at hearing those who were rescued describe their experiences. But such rescues of physical lives pale when compared to the spiritual rescues of newly baptized Christians or the restoration of fallen Christians. In verse 23, Jude describes those who are spiritually rescued as being "snatched from the fire." 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 describes the sharp contrast between those who are without God and those who are being saved. *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be*

deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. If they still lived any of those ungodly lifestyles, they might yet be miserable, but instead they now lived in a condition of godliness and holiness. David, in his immortal psalm of repentance said, Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:12) The Ethiopian Eunuch felt that joy also, for Acts 8:39 says, *When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.*

The rejoicing over a lost soul now saved extends even into heaven. Jesus taught the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin in the 15th chapter of Matthew. *Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.* (Verses 6 and 7)

Let us pray fervently for those suffering the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, and let us praise the rescue efforts of so many, and let us rejoice over those who are rescued, but let us never forget our responsibility towards those who are spiritually lost. They are the real disaster.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;

Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

