

**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

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, 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)

Several blessings are found in the following verses. There is the elimination of fear. *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,* (1 Peter 3:14). There is being made strong in our weakness. *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* (2 Corinthians 12:10) There is the shared experience with other brethren. *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.* (1 Peter 5:8-9) Finally, there is the blessing of salvation. *And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.* (Matthew 10:22)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young (had another fall and broke her wrist), Doris Baker, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), Evelyn Damron, Tony Tirey, Rose Curtis, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, Joe Cable, James Ratliff, Betty Clevinger

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Responding to a Baptist Pastor 2

Adam Litmer

Question 2- *“If a ‘Church of Christ’ elder refuses to baptize me, will I be lost until I can find one who will? **Do I need Jesus and a Campbellite ‘Preacher’ in order to be saved?** If I do, then Jesus is not the only Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) and the Holy Spirit is not the only Administrator (1 Corinthians 12:13) of salvation--the ‘Church of Christ’ preacher is necessary to salvation for **he is performing a saving act on men when he baptizes me!** Is this not blasphemy against Jesus and the Holy Ghost?*

It is wise to get your facts and information straight before you take on the task of writing a tract that you intend for many to read. Mr. Martin seems to be having a little difficulty making up his mind whether a person needs to be baptized by a “Church of Christ” elder or a “Campbellite preacher.” (*We will not spend much time discussing the term “Campbellite.” A favorite claim of the Baptist denomination is that a man named Alexander Campbell created the “Church of Christ”. If Alexander Campbell created a church it is a man made denomination and has no right to exist. Simply ask any person who refers to you as a “Campbellite” to name one doctrine you believe because Alexander Campbell told you to do so, or did so himself.*) I have yet to come across any preacher or elder who argues that a person's baptism is not valid *unless* it is administered by one of them. Baptism is not about the one administering it.

Mr. Martin claims, as many Baptists do, that to be baptized for the remission of one's sins makes the one administering the baptism a “Mediator” for that person's salvation. Where in the Bible is such a thing taught? Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man because the Bible says that He is. However, the Bible says nothing about a person taking Christ's place as Mediator, or joining Him as Mediator, when he administers baptism. Instead, we must rely upon Mr. Martin and others to insert that information where it

cannot be found. Scripture makes it quite clear that Deity is doing the operating in baptism (Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21).

As far as the Holy Spirit being the only “Administrator” of salvation, I admit that I am not sure what Mr. Martin is getting at. Since he did not explain it and I have no intention of putting words in his mouth, let me simply explain the verse that he used. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* “In one Spirit” means under the influence of one Spirit. That influence is found within the pages of Scripture.

A question: why is it that the person who is baptizing becomes a Mediator, but the one who delivers the Word, which *must* be believed if a person is to be saved, doesn't? Mr. Martin claims that the “Church of Christ preacher” is performing a saving act on someone when he baptizes them. In John 6:29 Jesus said, *This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.* If belief is a work God requires, and Mr. Martin's preaching causes someone to believe, hasn't Mr. Martin performed a “saving act”? If one is a “saving act” why isn't the other? The truth is that the preacher of God's Word (Romans 10:14-15) no more replaces or joins Christ as Mediator than the one who administers baptism for the remission of sins. Such an argument requires man to insert into Scripture what God never put there. That is not a business in which any man should be involved (Revelation 22:18).

I hope that you are finding this series beneficial. If you have any thoughts or comments on the questions or the answers that I have given, please feel free to bring it to my attention.

Mockery: Its Opportunities and Benefits

John Thompson

Mockery, as noted in previous articles, is one of numerous ways Christians are persecuted. We should neither avoid it nor go out of our way to attract it. If we live godly lives it will come our way. When we are mocked, is there anything available to reduce the sting of another's ridicule? Can we find a way to resist the temptation to feel shame and self-contempt when reviled? Can we find the strength not to act upon the desire to retaliate when others laugh at us and make fun of us? The answer is a resounding yes! With the proper frame of mind we will find

opportunity associated with mockery and all other forms of persecution. And the benefits received by being mocked as a Christian are of an eternal nature.

Philippians 1:12-14 says, *I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

How would you have handled an unjust imprisonment? It would be difficult to see it as an opportunity for the good of others. Yet that is exactly how Paul looked upon his imprisonment in Rome. He focused upon the spiritual condition of the lost rather than upon his own precarious physical situation. He saw it as an opportunity to advance the gospel rather than become despondent over his lost freedom. He defined his condition as an imprisonment for Christ rather than the actions of others against him. Reading about his situation, one gets the impression that he not only accepted it willingly rather than bitterly, but looked forward to the doors his imprisonment would open. He said, to those who would have impeded his return to Jerusalem, *For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.* (Acts 21:13) Paul saw his imprisonment, and any associated mockery, as opportunity to spread the gospel. In fact, he considered the affliction he received for the cause of Christ as an opportunity to take on the very image of Christ, even the image of Christ crucified. *From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus* (Galatians 6:17). In addition, there was the opportunity to embolden others to *speak the word without fear* (Philippians 1:14) and to honor and glorify God to the highest extent. *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.* (1 Peter 4:16) It would behoove all of us to acquaint ourselves with the numerous opportunities associated with mockery and all forms of persecution.

The Bible tells us the Christian who is mocked and ridiculed because he lives a holy life in accordance with God's revealed word will be blessed. *Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.* (Matthew 5:11) *If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.* (1 Peter 4:14)

