

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)

multiply and fill the earth. For the people of God today, pride often leads us to disobey God and not work hard enough at unity by having one language and the same words. If we all spoke the same thing, could God not say to us, in a positive and approving way, *Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.*

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

David Seabolt, 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, Glenda Brock

University Heights Messenger

Volume 8--Number 11

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Responding to a Baptist Pastor 4

Adam Litmer

Question “If my past sins are forgiven when I am baptized in water, and it is possible for me to “lose my salvation” and go to hell after I have been baptized, then wouldn’t my best chance of going to heaven be to **drown in the baptistery?!!**—before I had a chance to sin so as to be lost again? If I wanted to be absolutely sure of heaven, isn’t that my best opportunity?”

We have discussed baptism and allowed Scripture to show its necessity for salvation so we will not bring it up again here. In this response we will focus upon the possibility of losing one’s salvation. Is such a thing possible? Scripture says it is (Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12; 6:4-6; and 10:26-32 are just a few passages demonstrating that truth).

Mr. Martin and those of similar mind believe that if it is possible for one to fall away from grace (the exact phrase of Galatians 5:4), then a Christian can never know at any given moment whether they are saved or lost. They tell us that would be a terrifying condition in which to live. I agree such a condition would be horrifying, yet it is not one taught anywhere in Scripture. Once more we observe Mr. Martin adding something into Scripture that simply is not there.

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says, “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him; whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (1 John 2:3-6. See also 1 John 5:13)

Mr. Martin implies that we can never be certain of Heaven unless we “drown in the baptistery.” I’m going to stick with the inspired apostle John on this one. Contrary to what Mr. Martin is telling us, the Holy Spirit inspired apostle asserts that we can know we are saved by keeping the Lord’s

commandments and walking as he walked. Blessed assurance!

Now Mr. Martin may respond to this as his Baptist brethren are wont to do by exclaiming something like, “That means we have to walk sinlessly as Christ did and we cannot do that. So we’re right back where we started. According to your beliefs it *would* be best to drown in the baptistery!” Scripture nowhere teaches that a Christian *must* sin. It is never presented as an inevitability. *If* a Christian sins they are exceedingly fortunate that provision has been made. The Christian may repent, confess their sins to God, and be forgiven. Scripture clearly shows this wonderful truth in Acts 8:22 and 1 John 1:9. How marvelous that we can know with certainty the state of our souls at any given moment in time!

I may insert another response or two going forward. I hope that you have found these responses helpful as I have been pulling the most commonly asked questions from Mr. Martin’s tract. If you have any thoughts or comments on the answers I have provided , please feel free to bring them to my attention.

One Language And The Same Words

John Thompson

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.... And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. (Genesis 11:1-6)

The above passage of scripture attributes the success of the people of the earth following the flood to two things: 1) they were one people and 2) they had “one language and the same words.” Not only were they able to all communicate together, they apparently spoke the same things to one another with little if any disagreement. If there was any disagreement, they must have been able to quickly and completely resolve it because they “had one language and the same words.” They were focused upon the goal of building a tower, not on personal aggrandizement. Building the tower kept them together whereas focusing on one’s personal gain would have driven them apart. The single most significant factor working to their success seems to have been the fact that they ‘had one language and the same words.’ The Lord must have thought so also because the means by which He chose to divide the people was to “go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.”

Now the reason He chose to separate them was because they had not heeded His command given to Noah to *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.* (Genesis 9:1) Not only were they disobeying God, but they had become full of pride. They were building to make a name for themselves and to actually avoid being dispersed over the earth. *Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.* (Genesis 11:4)

A common language has a tremendous ability to bring stability and unity to those who speak it. In the case of the people in Genesis 11 a common language was being used to thwart God’s purpose. But a common language is necessary to achieve God’s purpose. Consider 1 Corinthians 1:10: *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* (KJV) Speaking the same thing promotes unity and avoids division. That principle is quite clear from the above passages.

While God’s intervention regarding the ability of the people in Genesis 11 to communicate with one another resulted in a multitude of languages and dispersal, the disunity among Christians is man-made and against God’s will. Just before Jesus went to the garden where he was arrested he spoke a lengthy prayer on behalf of his disciples. Included in that prayer are all Christians. *I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.* (John 17:20-23)

Why do we not all speak the same thing, and why are the “oracles of God” so often not the basis for the language we do speak? The principle that “we speak where the Bible speaks and we are silent where the Bible is silent” is more than just a nice sounding cliché; it is a necessity if our language is to promote our unity. I firmly believe pride is what gets in the way. For the people of Genesis 11 it led them to disobey God by remaining together rather than

