

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

##### **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)

So what do we do? We remember that we're on a pilgrimage that will last until our death (1 Peter 2:11). We make the best use of our time (Ephesians 5:16), which certainly does not forbid enjoying our time here, but *does* require that we enjoy the truly good things in life, always walking in a manner worthy of our calling (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:1). If we will do this than we will live very happy and fulfilling lives during the days of our sojourn. More importantly, we will never forget that our true home is just a door away.

#### **REMEMBER OUR NEW SISTERS**

We continue to rejoice over the decisions of Kasey and Zaskia to become Christians. Let us pray for and encourage our new sisters as they begin their lives with Christ.

#### **IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Declan Weatherholt, The Banks' family, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts, Kip Pearce

# University Heights Messenger

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## **Wisdom Calls**

John Thompson

Godly wisdom, the wisdom from above, is not elusive. It is not hard to find. It does not hide away, ever changing positions as one begins to close in on it. God does not encase it in a cloud of mystery or present it in riddles to confound those who would know it. When it is found God is pleased, not provoked. God does not dress wisdom up to increase its appeal to those who are impressed by flash and finery and flamboyance. Godly wisdom is readily available and God wants us to have it so much that wisdom actually calls out to us so that we might connect with it.

*Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks. (Proverbs 1:21-22) Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: (Proverbs 8:1-3)*

What kind of call does the wisdom from above make? It is a loud call, a call meant to be heard above other sounds and noises in the same area. It is described as raising its voice at the head of the noisy street and at the entrance of the portals. Picture someone becoming loud enough to be heard above all of the sounds generated by the everyday activity of a busy New York City street. Such is God's wisdom crying aloud to be noticed and listened to. But, it is not just another raucous noise like the blaring of a horn or the scream of a siren. Rather it is the sweet voice of reason and peace, of righteousness and love. This wisdom would impart the marvelous mind of God and cries aloud to be heeded.

Where is this call taking place? Not in some back alley inhabited by stray animals getting into trash and garbage cans. Not in some resident's back, fenced-in yard. Wisdom is out in the open calling in the market place and in noisy streets; it is on the heights and at the crossroads. It is as visible as it can possibly be, where

people can have an unobstructed view of it. It is nearby, near enough to reach out and touch. Although its source is the Almighty God, it is not an unfriendly wisdom but rather it is infinitely appealing and attractive. It is altogether good and good for us. *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* (James 3:17) Anything else fitting that description would be desired beyond measure, yet the wisdom of God, which actually does fit that description, is considered to be impure (consisting of contradictions), the cause of conflict, rude and unreasoning, without mercy, prejudicial, and the tool of charlatans.

Why is the wisdom from above not universally embraced? James writes that Godly wisdom is available for the asking if one will ask for it in faith. *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* (1:5-7)

Man's wisdom gets in the way. Man in his wisdom decides he does not need the wisdom from above and so he doesn't ask for it. Man in his wisdom determines that God doesn't know what He is talking about, and, therefore, ought to be rejected. Man in his wisdom determines that God's wisdom ought to change with the times and so man rewrites the Bible to coincide with what he would rather it said. I can think of no endeavor of man that man, in his own wisdom, has not corrupted and used for evil pursuits. Much too numerous are the ways that seem right to men, and each one of them will lead to spiritual death. (See Proverbs 14:12)

Wisdom is calling to you, loud and clear.

Will you not open its pages and hear  
and understand and in faith obey?

Will you turn from yours to God's wisdom today?

### **How Much Groaning Is Really Going On?**

Adam Litmer

In 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 we read, *"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling."*

For Paul the destroying of the earthly tent of his flesh was a very distinct and present possibility throughout much of his life as an apostle. Persecution and threats

of death were not uncommon to him (2 Corinthians 1:8-9; 4:7-10; 6:4-10; 11:23-27). Paul, the tentmaker, employs the imagery of a tent partly to remind us of how quickly the tent that is the human body can be removed and destroyed. This was especially true for the apostle himself who daily faced perils that threatened his life.

But Paul would have us know that death does not get the last word. Eventually death caught up to Paul but all it could do was usher him into the next life and the beginning of his reward (Luke 16:22). There was a crown of righteousness waiting for Paul, and if the Lord did not return before Paul's death than it was going to *require* his death to gain the reward (2 Timothy 4:6-8). To Paul, death served as a doorway to something far greater. Rather than fearing it, he *embraced* it. It was the expectation of his eternal reward that caused him to groan while in the flesh, longing to put on his heavenly dwelling.

Yet the words of 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 came from a man who lived a very difficult, arduous life. They came from a man who faced significant challenges and persecutions seemingly on a daily basis. Clearly the world possessed nothing so appealing to Paul that he permitted it to distract him from his goal. This was a man who lived as far from the lap of ease as one can get.

But we're not like that, are we? We come home from work and sit down in our comfortable chairs to relax. We watch satellite television, read a book on our iPad, or surf the web on our phones or computers until dinner is on the table. Perhaps, rather than eating a meal at home, we'll pack up the family and go out to a nice restaurant. Afterward we may stop for some ice cream or frozen yogurt. We go to movies and ballgames, take family vacations, shop at the mall, hang out with friends, listen to our music, spend time on social media, play games, before finally retiring to our warm beds in our comfortable houses or apartments.

There is nothing inherently wrong with any of those things. But they certainly do make for a rather comfortable life, don't they? Perhaps the comfort can become so great that one begins to question if there is anything else they really *need*? Perhaps the sheer volume of creature comforts so readily available in this country might shift a person's allegiance from Christ to the comforts and pleasures of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

It begs the question: how much groaning is taking place among us? How often do we find ourselves contemplating the future reward of the faithful so deeply that the creature comforts of this world lose their shine to us? After all, why would a Christian groan for a heavenly dwelling when he has become thoroughly content with an earthly one? (Matthew 6:19-21).

