

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)

For David to find lasting, *true* comfort he had to turn to the Comforter Himself. So too must we. The pleasures of this world are fleeting (Hebrews 11:25). Even the best of people will disappoint us (Acts 15:36-39). Keeping our own counsel is a sure path to spiritual ruin (Jeremiah 10:23). Let us find our comfort where David found his.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jim Parsons, Julie Patton, Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Vicky Litmer, Sheila Lawson, 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, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda, Fae Thomas

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My Enemy, the World

John Thompson

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)

I don't suppose there is any command from God more difficult to obey than for Christians to keep themselves separate from the world. Success in virtually every endeavor of life is permeated with the leaven of worldliness. Almost from the very beginning of mankind's existence, worldliness has appeared to man as pleasant, desirable, fun, beautiful, and must-have. It did not take much convincing for Eve to see the forbidden fruit as *good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, [then] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.* (Genesis 3:6)

The attractiveness of the things of the world is nothing more than a façade, a false-front behind which hides the ugliness and wickedness of worldliness. The Apostle John exposes the true nature of worldliness in verse 16 of 1 John 2. *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.* Regardless of how friendly the world appears, it's true nature is quite the opposite. *Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.* (James 4:4) While we may acknowledge the world to be a dangerous

place, are we ready to see it as our enemy? Yet we risk eternity if we become too friendly with the world.

So, how do we keep the world at bay? How do we live in the world and not become of the world? How do we remain Christians in such an unchristian environment? How do we keep from being enticed by the deceitfulness of sin? (Hebrews 3:13) Perhaps we can take a lesson from the action of the youngster who hides behind his mother or father when he feels threatened. He reduces the threat by hiding behind that which, should a fight ensue, will do the fighting for him and be victorious. So, how does that work for the Christian? If the Christian runs away from Satan, won't the Evil One simply pursue and strike from the rear? Well, he might begin to pursue, but He won't chase far because there is always easier prey to devour. Furthermore, upon seeing you taking refuge behind God, Satan will turn around and flee from you because he knows he will never be able to win against God. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7)

King David was a godly man who specialized in fleeing from his enemies, and the number of times he wrote of hiding behind God suggests that he had enemies other than those who sought to wrest the kingdom away from him and kill him. I suspect his spiritual enemies bothered him considerably more than the physical ones. What a relief it was for him to hide behind the Almighty. *Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy. ² Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, ³ who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, ⁴ shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear. ⁵ They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, "Who can see them?" ⁶ They search out injustice, saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search." For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep. ⁷ But God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly. ⁸ They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them; all who see them will wag their heads. ⁹ Then all mankind they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done. ¹⁰ Let the righteous one rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!* (Psalm 64)

“How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,
I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe;

How often, when trials like sea billows roll,
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.”

Seeking The Source Of Truest Comfort

Adam Litmer

“Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.”

The events described in 2 Samuel 12:20 took place immediately following the death of the child born of the adultery of David and Bathsheba. For seven days David fasted and prostrated himself on the ground before God, begging that the life of the child be spared. However, God had already decreed on the matter (12:14) and the child died. Immediately following the child's death David rose, cleaned himself up, and marched directly into the house of God to worship.

It occurs to me that David could have turned several places besides God to seek comfort. Let's consider some of them.

David could have sought comfort in the world. He could have pursued every pleasure and succumbed to every temptation. He could have drowned himself in all that the world had to offer in an effort to escape the pain of his child's loss. But the world held little pleasure for David. Too many of his nights had been spent hiding in caves and wondering barren ground for him to love the world. He could never turn to it for comfort.

He could have turned to his fellow man. He could have built his faith upon man's advice and wisdom. But David had been disappointed by men too often to find lasting comfort there. Certainly he lamented on more than one shoulder and felt some respite in so doing. However, there was no lasting comfort there. David needed something more, something *sure*. He couldn't find it in man.

He could have turned inward. He could have decided that from then on he was going to keep his own counsel. But David realized that it was his own fault that all of this had happened in the first place. So how could David find comfort in himself when it was his own selfishness that had led to adultery, dishonesty, conspiracy, murder, and the death of the child? No, David certainly could not retreat inward to find comfort.

