

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)

onerous demands by an uncaring God. Psalm 112:1 says, *Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!*

May we delight in and meditate upon the law of God. Such a desire is expressed so well, repeatedly, in Psalm 119: *I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. (v. 15); for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes. (V. 47-48) Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. (v. 97)*

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. (Psalm 119:1) One writer rephrases the above verse this way: ***Blessed is the man whose life is the practical transcript of the will of God.***

WELCOME

Edith Huffman and Karen Spivey have joined the congregation here at University Heights. Welcome, sisters!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Bennie and the Poynter family, 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, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro

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Judging and the Golden Rule (1)

Adam Litmer

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?...So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 7:1-2, 12). This text is part of the Sermon on the Mount; a sermon in which our Lord and Savior challenges those of us who would be kingdom citizens to examine our purposes, goals, motives, and moral standards. It is for us to rise to the challenge and find out just what and who we really are.

Let us begin by considering principles of judging as set forth in verses 1-3. First, our Lord says, *Judge not.* Elsewhere we are told that we have all sinned and to claim otherwise would make us liars. Since we have all sinned, then on what basis can we sit in judgment upon someone else? Paul puts it very well in Romans 2:21-22. *You then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?* The point is simply this: when we judge someone, yet are guilty of the very things we are judging, we condemn ourselves with our own judgment.

Our Lord expands on His teaching in John 7:24. *Judge not according to appearance.* It's easy to judge people based upon their appearance, isn't it? Jesus was judged this way. Isaiah 53 says there was nothing especially attractive about Him physically. His were not the impressive physical attributes of a Saul or Absalom; men who drew eyes on the basis of their physical presence alone. His lack of physical impressiveness is one of the reasons He was *despised and rejected of men* (Isaiah 53:3). Paul and Barnabas were judged once according to appearances and the result was the polar opposite of the judgment against Christ. Acts 14:11-12 says, *And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lyconian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness*

of men!” Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. These people could not have been more incorrect in their judgment.

You and I are forbidden to judge by the wrong standards. James says, *My brothers, show no partiality as you hold faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?* (2:1-4) Sadly, there have been times when people dressed in threadbare, ragged clothing have come into the assembly and my first thought was that they were merely looking for money. Sometimes I have been right and sometimes I have been wrong. Either way, how is it my place to make such an appearance based judgement?

Having said all of this, many presume that *all* judging is wrong, yet that presumption is not true. We have talked about the first part of John 7:24 where Jesus told us not to judge by appearances. He then went on to say, *But judge with right judgment.* Even in Matthew 7:15-16, Jesus warns about those who would attempt to lead us astray. *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.* If we are to decide that someone is a false prophet, we must judge him according to his fruit. 1 John 4:1 says, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. We must judge, but only when we use the right standard. That standard is Scripture* (1 Corinthians 4:6).

We will pursue these thoughts further in the next bulletin.

I’m Blessed Today, Oh Yes, I’m Blessed Today

John Thompson

My father was never comfortable using the word “fortunate” with regard to the good things that happened to him and his family. He much preferred the word “blessed” and he would often correct someone when they said something like, “I was really fortunate to…” When it comes to spiritual things, I believe he is absolutely correct. Spiritual blessings do not come our way as a result of fortune or chance. Rather they happen out of the mercy and goodness of God and a faithful obedience to His will.

The Holy Spirit chose the word “blessed” to communicate to mankind the wonder and magnificence of God’s love, mercy and grace. Removing that word from

the Bible would, I believe, seriously hamper one’s ability to adequately understand and properly value that gift. Sources tell me that the Hebrew word translated “blessed” is meant to convey a sense of plurality. Thus, the man in the psalm is on the receiving end of a multiplicity of good things. He is not blessed in just a very limited number of ways, but is blessed in numerous ways. One cannot help but be reminded of James 1:17: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* This verse also confirms the usage of the Hebrew word translated “blessed” to identify the direction of movement of the blessings. That is, they do not flow from man to God, but rather from God to man. They are heavenly, spiritual benefits, not earthly and carnal.

Situations and conditions that bring forth blessings from God are frequent and recurring themes throughout the Psalms. Always they are connected with righteous behavior. Commentators are prone to explain the word “blessed” by substituting the word “happy.” But, to me, happy fails to sufficiently communicate what flows to the righteous from God. Upon seeing the word “happy” people might understand “blessed” only as a casual, light-hearted, carefree, happy-go-lucky disposition. Spiritual happiness, on the other hand, is an inner contentment regardless of circumstances; it is a frame of mind that wants nothing more than to be righteous. It is basking in God’s spotlight, not man’s. Two other words sometimes used to explain the fuller meaning of “blessed” are prosperous and enviable. Whether the righteous blessed by God are prosperous in worldly goods is irrelevant. Because the righteous are not constantly bemoaning what they do not have, they prosper in what they do have from God. Consequently, the blessed state of the righteous is an enviable one, one likely to arouse envy in others.

Behavior that results in being blessed is expressed in Psalm 1:1 in two ways that are impossible to be misunderstood. First, one is righteous and thus blessed by not walking in the counsel of the wicked. Psalm 40:4 expresses the same thought: *Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!* The proud are those who see it as a badge of honor to drag down the righteous and lie about sin presenting it as natural and pleasurable. *Blessed is the man who walks **not** in the counsel of the wicked.* Second, one is righteous and thus blessed by delighting in the law of the Lord. Perhaps you have heard someone say, “I love my job. It’s really not work when you love what you are doing and doing what you love.” That’s the way it must be for the one who delights in the law of the Lord. There is no drudgery to Bible study for that one. There is no hesitancy to obey what many might consider to be

