



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 8, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today

Our Next Gospel Meeting

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

January 6, 7:30

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of
Christ

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OUR ENEMY, THE WORLD

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 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; its 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?

So, how do we live in the world and not become of the world? 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

Members Needing Our Prayers

Marcus Lake, Mary Weatherholt, Joyce Bolton, Julie Patton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Richard and Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Dalton Denny, Charles Bishop, Brian Mason, The Byers family, Glen Perkins, Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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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)

John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

