

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

**The Summer Series Begins Today!**

**Note**

Robin Miller's surgery is scheduled for later today (Friday). If all goes as planned, she will be in the recovery process now. Please keep her in your prayers.

**In need of prayers**

The Osborne family, Jim Parsons, Rachel Thompson, John Thompson, Jill Harrison Larry Billator, Karen Spivey, Sandra Russell, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt), Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Sandra Queen, Linda Moore, Virginia Gordon, Glenn Lake, Annie Allen

**University Heights Messenger**

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**Bible Heroes, Both Ancient and Modern**

John Thompson

When someone asks, "What is a hero?" he is really seeking a definition of the word. A typical definition might be, a hero is a person who is admired or idealized for his courage, or for his outstanding achievements, or for other noble qualities. This definition seems to presume that a hero is always a good person. He is brave and courageous in right ways. His achievements are ones that benefit others and his other qualities are easily appreciated and consistent with his overall character.

I don't believe, however, the above definition of hero is comprehensive enough. For example, hero status is often given not only to real people, but to fictional people as well. In addition, animated characters are given hero status, appealing especially to children. The entertainment industry has created several entire imaginary worlds containing both super heroes and super villains. And sometimes, perhaps much too frequently, the super villains become heroes to many who place them on a par with those who fight against them.

Perhaps the essential question is not "What is a hero?" but rather, "Who do I choose to be my heroes?" This question forces one to consider such things as: what is there about this hero that I admire and are they good qualities? What has this hero achieved

and what makes those achievements outstanding? Are they spectacular from a worldly viewpoint, or might they be quite understated yet infinitely more far-reaching? And, finally, what am I broadcasting to others when they learn who my heroes are?

Beginning tomorrow evening, July 9, this congregation will be having nightly lessons on the theme of Bible Heroes. The Bible is filled with godly men and women who are to be highly regarded for their courage and perseverance, for their patience and endurance, and for a host of other qualities. Hebrews 11:32-40 summarizes many of the extraordinary achievements of God's people, any or all of whom are candidates to be our heroes. <sup>32</sup> *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—* <sup>33</sup> *who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,* <sup>34</sup> *quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.* <sup>35</sup> *Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.* <sup>36</sup> *Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.* <sup>37</sup> *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—* <sup>38</sup> *of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.* <sup>39</sup> *And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,* <sup>40</sup> *since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.*

The specific heroes to be covered in our Bible study series are Noah, Moses, Job, Daniel, and Jesus. Careful Bible students cannot help

but be impressed by the lives of those faithful servants of God, the Father. They are worthy to be anyone's hero. But we could just as easily have chosen Joshua, Isaiah, Elijah, Elisha, and John the Baptist. Or, Deborah, Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus, Priscilla, and Tabitha. You see, faithful service to the Almighty requires heroic attitudes and intentions, and there is no greater achievement than growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18) The Apostle Paul captured the very essence of his entire life in one brief, glorious statement of achievement: <sup>7</sup> *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* <sup>8</sup> *Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.* (2 Timothy 4:7-8) How could we exclude Paul from our list of Bible heroes?

Now what about more modern times? Might we not find Bible heroes among Christians we have known in the recent past, or even among those presently living and worshipping among us? The gospel preacher who studies his Bible day in and day out and presents quality sermons week in and week out; the sister in Christ who never ceases from addressing the needs of her fellow saints; the recently converted young man who, more often than not, enters the church building with the attitude, "Here am I, use me;" I would suggest that any Christian faithfully serving the Lord can be someone's Bible hero. Even the very young can achieve hero status in the eyes of those much older. When a recently converted pre-teen, walking with crutches due to a deep cut on the bottom of his foot, refuses to have someone else do the closing prayer that he is scheduled for and does it himself, he becomes a hero to me. What about you?



