

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

Garry Banks

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)

only one given the ministry of reconciliation. All Christians are to be ambassadors for Christ. And so, Paul implores us to be reconciled to God that we might become the righteousness of God.

Can you imagine a better harvest than a harvest of righteousness? Wouldn't it be a sight if someone driving along the backroads of religion could see field after field teeming with righteousness ready to be harvested? James says that is possible and happens when seeds, carefully chosen to be seeds of righteousness in accordance with God's written word, are sown in a soil rich in peace, a soil that has been selected for its ability to grow good crops, enriched, tilled, planted, and cultivated by a peacemaker. Where are all of the peacemakers? *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, 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

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An Important Point From A Familiar Passage

Adam Litmer

So they asked him... "Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not?" But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness (image—NKJ) and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer became quiet. (Luke 20:21-26)

This familiar passage shows us the enemies of Jesus attempting to get Him in trouble with Rome, the people, or both. Our Lord's brilliant answer shows that fulfilling basic civic obligations is not in any way inconsistent with one's allegiance to God. Passages such as Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-15 further emphasize this point.

However, there is another lesson taught in this place that is rarely mentioned and it revolves around the Lord's use of the word "image." The coins of the day were minted with images of Caesar upon them. He had them made, stamped his picture on them, and so in that sense they "belonged" to him. Jesus is instructing them to give Caesar that which is his.

But then Jesus went on to instruct them to give to God the things that are God's. Having used Caesar's image just a moment before to make the point that Caesar is owed his rightful due, it is clear that Jesus intends for them to keep the "image" thought in mind. How might such a thought be applied to giving God His due? Easily, in fact. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-27)*

If their coins belonged to Caesar because his image was stamped upon them, then they themselves belonged to God for they were made in His image. The point of this passage goes far beyond simple civic duty to encompass one's

ultimate obligation to God. To give Him His due is to give Him the entirety of ourselves for His image is stamped upon us in a much more profound way than Caesar's (or past American presidents, for that matter) was stamped on a coin.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:1-2) What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. (Psalm 116:12-14)

Would you render unto God the things that are God's? Then you must give Him everything that you are. Anything less than whole hearted devotion is too little and fails to make return according to the wonderful benefits done for you (2 Chronicles 32:25). Remember that we are all made in the image of God. This means that we belong to Him. Let's purpose to live with this truth in mind every day of our lives.

Harvest

John Thompson

My father was very good at his chosen profession, farming. He ran the business of a 160-acre dairy farm out of two drawers in his desk. In addition to the dairy, he grew alfalfa, barley, wheat, and corn. Few things of nature are more lovely than fields ripe unto harvest. A field of wheat, its golden color heralding "harvest time is here!", and heads heavy with grain bowing in surrender to the Creator's cycle of life is a sight to behold.

Images of Dad's fields of corn have stayed with me more than any other crop he produced. I believe no other crop he grew better illustrates the direct relationship between the effort he put forth to grow an outstanding field of corn and a bountiful harvest. All of Dad's activities, including field selection, plowing, disking, seed selection, planting, fertilizing, cultivating, and spraying were all done to produce a bountiful crop. I can still feel his anxiety when spring rains would delay planting time or when summer drought would cause the brown and almost brittle leaves to point straight up as if pleading for a bit of moisture. And I can still feel his satisfaction when wagon loads of newly harvested corn would be placed into the cribs.

It is really the harvest that matters. Dad became an excellent corn-maker by learning all that went into producing a bountiful corn harvest. He was not one to

latch on to the newest corn production scheme being proposed. He knew what worked and he knew that if he continued to use those methods he would be successful.

Harvesting a good crop should matter more to the Christian than it does to the farmer. Righteousness is the harvest of interest to the Christian, according to James 2:13-18.¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.* ¹⁴ *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.* ¹⁵ *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* ¹⁶ *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* ¹⁷ *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸ *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Just like my father wanted to be a corn-maker, or a wheat-maker, Christians should want to be peace-makers, not just ordinary, mediocre peacemakers, but the very best peace-makers we can be. We become peace makers by first being reconciled to God. Look how Paul expressed it in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. ¹⁶ *From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.* ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;* ¹⁹ *that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[b] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.* ²¹ *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

This business of being a new creature, of the old having passed away, is from God. It became possible to be at peace with God when "God through Christ reconciled us to himself." But did you notice what else He did? We who have been reconciled were given the ministry of reconciliation; we are ambassadors for Christ; God makes his appeal through us (and through His word, or course). I don't believe Paul is just speaking of himself as being the

