

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)

The Bible speaks to virtually all of the relationships we have with others: child/parent employee/employer; teacher/student; police/citizen; youth/aged; and so on. And let's not forget the relationships we have with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. That relationship flourishes and grows when we spend less time taking each other for granted and more time carefully considering the unique contribution of each member of the family of God to the family of God. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 12-13)

There is one relationship that overrides all others, and that is each Christian's relationship with God. God blesses His children so abundantly, beyond measure. Never has He failed to fulfill a promise, nor will He when His conditions are met. Do we dare take God for granted? On the one hand we acknowledge that we must not, yet on the other hand our gratitude too often goes unexpressed and our attention to the details of His plan for us wavers. May we keep our attention upon God and His will and be sufficiently grateful that He truly has provided for our best interests.

#### **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

# University Heights Messenger

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## **A Week Of Illness; An Eternity Of Peace**

Adam Litmer

This past week was an unpleasant one in the Litmer house. The stomach virus infected each one of us to varying degrees. In the grand scheme of illnesses, the stomach virus is little more than an annoyance. It afflicts you for a few days, vanishes, and leaves no lasting damage. If a person views the sunny side of things they may come out of it whistling as they notice the number on the scale has dropped a bit. Even so, the experience is miserable until it runs its course.

This congregation has experienced much worse than the stomach virus lately. We've seen death, surgeries, illnesses, accidents, and more. We hear often from brethren and family members in other locations who are experiencing loss, pain, and sickness. Paul, in speaking of the gospel and his own ministry, made an interesting statement in 2 Corinthians 4:7. *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.* Though I recognize that this was not Paul's point, I believe "jars of clay" is a wonderful way to describe humanity generally. Clay is brittle and easily broken. No matter how well we seek to maintain a trinket fashioned of clay, it will inevitably crack and fracture. We can piece it back together with glue but before long another crack will manifest and eventually the piece is destined for the trash bin. We're just like that in certain ways. Pacemakers, screws holding bones together, artificial joints and limbs, medications, and even eyewear is all "glue" struggling to keep our clay bodies held together just a little while longer. Eventually, our "jars of clay" will meet the trash bin and return to the dust (Genesis 3:19).

Do you know what I find particularly sad? For so many people those last few lines describe all that there is for them. They believe life is simply a pointless precursor to death and then...nothing. They go through pain and

sickness, desperately hoping that their current affliction will not end their life, for all of their hope is set on and in this life. I cannot think of a more hopeless way of living. The faithful saint knows better. For us, this life is not the precursor to nothingness, but to Heaven. This is why Paul, at the end of 2 Corinthians 4, could declare, *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.* Take a moment to read him in Romans 8:18 and Philippians 1:23b as well.

Revelation 21:4 says, *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.* Some believe that the final two chapters of Revelation speak not of Heaven, but the Lord's church here upon the earth. They believe Revelation 21:4 is to be understood either figuratively or in some sort of spiritual sense. I do not share that belief. It is my conviction that John is speaking about Heaven and this verse is to be understood exactly as it reads. In Heaven, there will be no cause for weeping. Death will have been dealt with once and for all (20:14). Pain and mourning will be things of the past. Sickness will never invade another home.

As minor an affliction as it is, I would prefer the Litmer clan not fall victim to the stomach virus again. Even more, I cherish the knowledge that the Day is coming when heart disease, cancer, and death will have no way to touch the saints. Our Father will shelter us beneath His wings in Heaven.

### **Taking Others for Granted**

John Thompson

Do you ever feel you are being taken for granted? Such a feeling is likely to happen when others simply assume you will meet their demands or that you will do what they expect you to do even though they may have not even let you know what they are expecting. To make matters worse, they might even criticize you should you express any hesitation to accommodate them or hint that you are a bit put out over their lack of consideration. Obviously, no one likes to be taken for granted, yet taking others for granted happens all of the time. It may very well be the most frequently occurring episode of the "I matter more than you" phenomenon that permeates human relationships.

Many might argue that taking someone for granted is nothing more than trust in action. However, trust is based upon a firm conviction that one will fulfill what he has promised, while taking someone for granted is the assumption that you will fulfill what I have promised myself you will do for me. The two essential words within the expression "taking for granted" are "taking" and "granted." To grant a thing is an act of free will giving. That which is given is not something which must be given. Rather, it is given by choice motivated by the giver's interest in and concern for the other party. The "taking" is an act of selfish receiving. The one who takes another for granted does not wait for the granting to occur. He just proceeds as if the granting to him has already occurred. In a very real sense he takes that which he believes he is owed or what he believes belongs to him.

Taking someone for granted occurs within a relationship and results in the relationship being essentially one-sided. Here is a dictionary explanation of what taking for granted means: *to expect someone or something to be always available to serve in some way without thanks or recognition; to not show that you are grateful to someone for helping you or that you are happy they are with you, often because they have helped you or been with you so often.* (The Free Dictionary) Within that explanation one can easily see selfishness, reduced romance, carelessness, ingratitude, and a heavy dose of pride at work. The one item in the description above that stands out to me is not being happy that the one being taken for granted is with you. If not happy, then what is being felt? Probably indifference. After all, if my mind is filled only with thoughts of me, I can only be indifferent to you.

It would be good for each of us to seriously consider the various relationships we have and determine which party is commanding most of our attention: self or the other. Take marriage, for instance. According to Ephesians 5:22-24, wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. Such cannot be done well if the wife constantly takes her husband for granted. The passage goes on to say that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. Thus, husbands are required to carefully attend to the needs of their wives more so than to carelessly take them for granted. How often during a day, a week, a month do you gratefully acknowledge to your spouse what he or she adds to your relationship?



