

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 Sebolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**Adam's Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

and limitation would be. He knew us in this way even before we were born. He has also appointed us to become like Jesus as we follow in His steps; "For whom He foreknew He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-horn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29). It is up to us as to whether we will accept God's appointment or not, just as it was up to Jeremiah." (Quoted from Expository Files article by Jon W. Quinn)

Imagine the huge number of people known and planned by God who will hear His Son say, Depart from me, for I never **knew** you. What a tragedy. May it not be so with you and me.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Larry Billitor, Julie and Elijah Patton, Declan Weatherholt, David Sebolt, 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, The Baker family, Randy Cates, Greg Litmer, The Smith family

# University Heights Messenger

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**Knowledge of You (and Me) Fills God's Mind**

John Thompson

One cannot study the scriptures and come away with anything less than complete awe and wonderment of the majesty of our Creator. And so we sing:

*You are beautiful beyond description, Too marvelous for words  
Too wonderful for comprehension, Like nothing ever seen or heard.  
Who can grasp your infinite wisdom? Who can fathom the depth of your  
love?*

*You are beautiful beyond description; Majesty enthroned above.  
And I stand, I stand in awe of you. I stand, I stand in awe of you  
Holy God to whom all praise is due. I stand in awe of you.*

It is no wonder that David, as he contemplated the heavenly bodies created by Almighty God, expressed the smallness and insignificance he felt by asking, *what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?* (Psalm 8:4) He was not asking for factual information about man's place in the universe. David knew about the exalted position in which God had placed man, as he so states in the remainder of the Psalm.

To me, the key word in Psalm 8:4 is the word "mindful." When I use this word, it means being attentive to something; having it in mind; paying attention to it. My mind does not necessarily dwell upon it constantly or fully. My attention to someone or something may range from casual to obsessive. I may even have several things in mind at the same time with nothing getting my full attention. But with God, I believe it is different. His mind truly is full of that which concerns mankind. And so, David's question becomes, "What is man that God's mind is so filled, to an infinite degree, on a never-ending basis, with the welfare of His creation?"

God's mindfulness of man goes way beyond simply caring for mankind in a general way. His mindfulness is of such a nature that His mind is full of each of us individually. His mind is full of you, and His mind is full of me; His mind is full of each person who has come to be, and each person who is yet to be. Even His discipline and His punishment are functions of His mindfulness. God's power to know the minute details of each person is unlimited. Matthew 10:30 says that even the hairs on one's head are numbered. This was said to Jesus' disciples as He sent them forth and warned them of the hostility and persecution they would face. It was a statement of comfort and assurance, meant to lessen and even eliminate their fear. How frightening could their opponents possibly be when they were under the care of God who keeps a running tally of the number of hairs on each person's head?

The degree to which each person occupies the mind of God becomes mind-boggling when we consider additional passages of scripture, for example verses 13-16 of Psalm 139. *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

I am at a loss to fully understand all that is being communicated in the above passage, but the very idea that God was mindful of me even before I was born, even before I was conceived, is perplexing yet comforting: perplexing because the fact that the *days that were formed for me were written when as yet there was none of them* is beyond my complete comprehension. However, the passage does tell me that God knows who He wants me to be; in fact, He has always known. His plans for me are high ones and He has given me all that is necessary to be a high achiever in His service. And that is very comforting. What is required on my part is to seek out His will for me and bend my will to coincide with His plans, always remembering that God's plans for me are no more important than His plans for anyone else, for then He would be a respecter of persons. Consequently, I must not think more highly of myself than I ought to

think. (Romans 12:3) God's plan for King David or His plan for me makes neither of us more noble or important than anyone else.

A passage in Jeremiah places God and His mind on a level that only He can occupy. The passage speaks to God's mind being full of plans for His creation, even for each individual. Sometimes the plan is very specific, as it was for Jeremiah. Here is what God said to Jeremiah: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."* (Jeremiah 1:5)

If God knew Jeremiah before he was even conceived, then it seems to me that He knows everyone who will be before they actually are. Furthermore, God takes credit for the very formation of Jeremiah in the womb. It is God who established the principles of procreation and He has every right to remind us in His word that disrespect for life in all of its abdominal manifestations is a personal affront to the Creator. Aborting a living being in the womb constitutes the killing of an individual who God already knew and made plans for.

The above verse also says that God consecrated and appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet before nations, and He did so before Jeremiah was born. God had great plans for Jeremiah. Jeremiah could have thwarted God's plans for him, but he chose to allow God's plans to unfold according to God's good pleasure. If God had plans for Jeremiah even before He was born, then He can have plans for anyone, or everyone. Those plans can be very specific as they were for Jeremiah and the other prophets of old, or they can be quite general. I have no doubt that His plan for every human being, even before conception, is to become a follower committed to obeying God, to be consecrated, set apart, sanctified for the Lord's work. Can you think of anything more awesome and inspiring than the fact that God knew you before you were born, before conception even? Does the fact that He has a plan for you, a job for you to do arouse your curiosity to discover that grand plan? Do you have a burning desire to know Christ and Him crucified? (1 Cor 2)

What does this mean to us? After all, we are not prophets like Jeremiah. No, but we are human beings created in God's image like Jeremiah. God knew each of us; what our strengths and weaknesses; abilities



