

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

From Jesus

“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

Mark 9:35-37

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rick Small, Mildred Collins, Luke Ramey, John Thompson, Declan Weatherholt, David Sebolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Ed Allison, The Bays and Robbins family, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett’s mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Smith family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell’s father, Bruce Feltner, Harleigh Spartman, Fay Thomas, Mattie Johnson

University Heights Messenger

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He Who Has An Ear, Let Him Hear”

John Thompson

God created man a fully functional creature, able to do everything God commanded and to perform it well. Thus, Adam was created with language skills intact, including a vocabulary, rules of grammar, a mouth and tongue to speak, ears to hear, and a mind to both formulate what to say and understand what was said to him. He was able to communicate with God, name the animals, and, when God brought Eve to him, to communicate with her also and she with him.

Communication takes place every instant. One would think, after a few thousand years of existence that humans would have become so highly skilled at communicating that no failures would ever happen. But we all know communication failures happen all of the time and are at the root of most relationship problems. The statement, “What we’ve got here is a failure to communicate,” is one of the all-time famous quotations from the film industry because it resonates so well with us.

Communication happens when one sends a message and another receives the same message. Attempts at

communication fail when the message received is different from the one sent, or is not received at all. Communication is a dynamic interplay requiring a tremendous amount of effort and a constant switching between the roles of sender and receiver. Senders often fail to ensure their messages are precise and easily understood and receivers frequently make little effort to understand the messages sent to them. Much of what passes for communication involves each of the parties trying his or her best to remain in the role of sender. All this does is to leave the messages in some sort of limbo with no place to go. Communication requires all participants in the process to work to their utmost, switching sender and receiver roles as often as necessary as they labor to ensure the endeavor does not fail.

As Jesus went about teaching, He frequently challenged His listeners to put forth effort to receive His teaching. On more than one occasion He said, *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* (Mark 4:9) On this particular occasion, He said those words at the conclusion of the parable of the Sower. He indicated to His apostles that the very purpose of teaching in parables was to sift out those who were willing to do the work necessary to receive His divine message from those who would not. The apostles and other disciples showed their desire to understand by asking Jesus about the parables. Jesus then said to them, *“To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,¹² so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be*

forgiven.” And he said to them, *“Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”* (Mark 4:11-13)

God has worked very hard to give His creation a message perfect in every way possible. Since the sender is divine, the message is divine also, and meant to be understood. When the message from God contained in the scriptures is understood, faith is the result. *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* (Romans 10:17) This hearing is not the mere alteration of brain waves due to the ear’s ability to receive sound. Rather it is receiving and understanding the same message sent from God. That understanding comes through the word of Christ when one gives God’s word the full attention it deserves.

Chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation consist of letters to the seven churches of Asia. Each letter is quite short and to the point. Each letter ends with the admonition, *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* What about you? Are you getting the message? Are you hearing what the Spirit says through the Word of God? Not the message you want to receive; not some nice-sounding theory coming from the mind of man rather than the mind of God, but are you understanding the message from God.

