

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

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rick Small, The Brundige and Spivey families, Arlena Poynter, the Collins and Daniels family, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, Taylor Osterling, The Bays and Robbins family, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Ward and Thacker family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell's father, Bruce Feltner, Harleigh Spartman, Fay Thomas, Mattie Johnson, the brethren in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mexico City, and the Caribbean, Elijah Epling, Leland Wells

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A Spiritual Bucket List

John Thompson

Google the term "bucket list" and you will likely be surprised at the variety of web sites, blogs, and other postings involving this very popular term. Here are just a few samples of what you will find:

Bucket lists: are they a good idea?

3 reasons you should have a bucket list.

Bucket lists and positive psychology

Most popular bucket list ideas

100+ things to do before you die

5 things people should quit putting on their bucket list

A bucket list consists of things a person wants to do before reaching the end of one's life. The origin of the expression is unclear, but may have derived from the expression "kick the bucket." Most everyone has a bucket list, more or less. Even if one has never actually written down a list of items to be done before death occurs, one has some idea of things he really wants to do if he ever gets the opportunity. As the expression "bucket list" has become more and more part of our everyday vocabulary, we might find ourselves saying something like, "Well, put it on your bucket list."

I wonder how many Christians have spiritual matters on their bucket lists, items such as teach more, preach more, serve more, love more. How many aspire to be a deacon, an elder, a servant, a good example? How many think, “I will become less angry, less bitter, less quarrelsome, less critical before eternity catches up with me and I have no more opportunities.” There are so many items Christians ought to have on their spiritual bucket lists!

In 1 Peter 4:7-11 we find a passage of scripture that lends itself to fitting into the bucket list concept. We might read this passage and quickly pass over it, but if we are intent upon preparing for eternity, then we would do well to seriously consider this passage:

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Notice the passage begins with: *The end of all things is at hand.* We are living in the last days. It is not a time to dwell on when the end will come. It does not matter when. What matters is living in a state of readiness. A spiritual bucket list does not consist of things to do some time in the future before one dies. Rather, it is a listing that defines the Christian; it is a listing of things that keep the Christian constantly prepared to be received by Jesus when he returns.

Here are the things listed in 1 Peter 4:7-11: Be self-controlled and sober-minded; keep loving one another earnestly; show hospitality to one another without grumbling; use your gifts to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

If you do not have a spiritual bucket list, 1 Peter 4:7-11 is a great place to start. But understand, it is just the beginning. God's word is full of things that belong on the Christian's bucket list. Keep reading, keep studying, and keep adding to your list so that you are always prepared.

I chanced to glance into my mirror
And what did I see?

I saw an image of myself
looking, staring back at me.

My mirror eyes locked onto mine
With a grip of steel.

I tried but could not look away;
I must see myself for real.

I will look into the word of God;
Let it pierce me deep into my soul
To discern the intentions of my heart
So that I might be pure and whole.

