

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

NOTE

Thanks to all who have helped edit the prayer list. Please continue informing me of new additions and of those who may be removed from the list.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Ralph Fox, Rick Small, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, 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, Jamie Powell's father, Harleigh Spartman, Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Leland Wells, Linda Moore

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“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

John Thompson

My father did not much care for the word, “fortunate”. Although he was a very successful dairy farmer, he never considered the abundance in his life to be due to good fortune. Whenever someone pointed out to him how lucky he was he would correct them by saying, “Yes, I am very blessed.” Although Dad understood the contributions of thrift and hard work to his success, he never failed to perceive God as the source of all that is good in one's life. He thoroughly believed that if he milked his cows twice daily, fed them and cared for them properly, maintained his tractors and other field machinery, and planted cultivated, and harvested in a timely manner, and if he acknowledged God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift he would be blessed. And so he was. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17)*

The title of this article comes from the short hymn *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, number 541 in our hymnal. If we are not careful we will miss two key thoughts in this song, those thoughts being expressed in the three-letter word “all.” Notice first that all blessings come from God. Anything that falls into the category of blessings, God is its source. Furthermore, since God is the very essence of goodness and graciousness and

love, all that comes from Him must be considered to be blessings, even trials, tribulations, correction, and discipline. *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (James 1:2-3) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."* (Hebrews 12:5-6)

A second key thought within this song is expressed in the line, *Praise Him all creatures here below.* No one can ever justify a failure to constantly praise God for all that He is, all that He has done and continues to do, that is, for all Divine blessings. The atheist, the agnostic, the idol worshipper, and the follower of a perverted gospel, as well as the faithful Christian, are all among those who benefit from certain Divine blessings. In the sermon on the mount, in Matthew 5, Jesus taught that we are to love our enemies just as God loves His. How is it known that God loves His enemies? The answer is given in Matthew 5:44-45: *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.* The God of Heaven has blessed both the righteous and the wicked with marvelous abilities and talents to produce beautiful and useful things: works of art to please the eye; musical compositions to please the ear; masterpieces of prose and poetry to stimulate the mind. Praising the Lord for the bountifulness of His blessings is the responsibility of all. *Praise Him all creatures here below.*

There is a song that serves as a sequel to *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*. It is *Count Your Blessings*.

*'When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.'*

Notice the element of surprise. Just keep listing your blessings. The more you think about them the more evident it will be that God is the source.

*"Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, And you will keep singing as the days go by."*

You cannot think about opposite things at the same time. You may go from one to the other, but two thoughts cannot occupy your mind simultaneously. So, as long as you are counting your blessings you will not be dwelling upon your troubles.

*"When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings—money cannot buy Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high."*

Make sure salvation, the greatest blessing of all, is always prominently displayed on that list.

*"So, amid the conflict whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end."*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

