

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

Ralph Fox, Rick Small, Jeff Howerton,
Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy),
Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Brianna
Ratliff, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison,
Dwight Antle, The Bays and Robbins
family, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige,
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's
mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young,
Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean
Gartland, John Blessing, William
Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Jamie
Powell's father, Harleigh Spartman,
Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Leland
Wells, Linda Moore, Sheila Johnson,
Virginia Gordon

University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 1

January 7, 2018

Great Expectations

John Thompson

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

In 1860 *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens was first published. Pip, one of the main characters, was an ambitious young man. He had great expectations of himself, such as becoming wealthy and moving up the ladder of social class. Such worldly goals dominated his life until he realized he had missed out on the worthier goals of love, loyalty, and a pure conscience.

It is right and proper to have high expectations both of one's self and of others. Low expectations benefit no one and can only result in delayed growth or no growth at all. Christians are taught, and rightly so, that growth is essential for spiritual success. *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)* Parents are to challenge their children with great spiritual expectations. *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)* Christians are to relate to one another in an expectant manner. *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that*

none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:12-13) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

God's people are not to be content with spiritual mediocrity; satisfied with underachievement because no higher expectations exist. We sing the song Higher Ground, but do we really mean what we sing?

- I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."
- My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound, My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.
- I want to live above the world, Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of saints on higher ground.
- I want to scale the utmost height, And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Look at the expectations Paul placed upon Timothy. Paul expected Timothy to show others the way, to demonstrate how a Christian ought

to live. Did Timothy feel any pressure when he first read Paul's letter? I cannot imagine that he felt no pressure at all over Paul's requirement, "Let no one despise you for your youth," but all evidence suggests that Timothy eagerly accepted the challenge.

Paul expected Timothy to not be the typical immature young person with the attitude, "I don't care what other people think of me." Rather, he was to be exemplary. Exemplary means **servicing as a desirable model; representing the best of its kind**. Despite Timothy's youth, Paul expected him to be the best youth around, and, since Timothy was serving as an evangelist, Paul expected his youthful protégé to be the best youthful evangelist, one whose example was desirable, one that people would want to emulate.

Paul got down to specifics. He expected Timothy to be exemplary in speech. Timothy was to lead the way in demonstrating godly speech in a way that others would desire to follow. Paul exhorted Timothy to be an example in his conduct so others would imitate him as both he and Paul imitated the Savior. (See 1 Corinthians 11:1) Paul had great expectations of Timothy with regard to love and faith and purity. Those five things take in all things pertaining to being a faithful Christian. I can think of nothing that is involved in being a child of God that is not included in this package of great expectations.

If Paul was inspired to write those expectations to Timothy, then they are God-approved expectations. Furthermore, we have every reason to believe they were Timothy's expectations of himself. Surely, if his response was to ignore them or disregard them, if he rebelled against them or flatly refused them we would have been told.

Finally, if these are God's expectations of Timothy then they are also God's expectations of all Christians. Will you accept the challenge and meet those expectations? There are none greater.

