

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

Shirley Harrod and family, Rachel
Thompson, Larry Billator, Julie Patton,
Karen Spivey, Rick Small, Jeff
Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her
sister, Dorothy), 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

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More Than a Memory Verse

John Thompson

When I was growing up it was common practice for Bible class teachers to assign memory verses. Genesis 1:1 is probably the first Bible verse I committed to memory. No doubt most, if not all, who read this article can also quote the verse from memory, and I hope our youth can do so as well. In all of literature I doubt there is any other opening line more recognizable than Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* This verse is the perfect choice for memorization because of its position in the Bible (the very first verse) and because it is short and uncomplicated, flowing nicely from mind to tongue.

But memorization is not the same as meditation, and if all we ever do with Genesis 1:1 is memorize it and then quote it from time to time we will have missed the profound message contained in those 10 words, a message so profound that it sets the tone for the entire revelation from God to man. The word "profound" means far-

reaching and of great importance, able to be markedly influential. I can think of no passage of scripture more profound than Genesis 1:1. No doubt many others are equally profound, but none more so.

What is in this verse that makes it so profound? It is the very first statement God chose to communicate to man. Out of all of the pieces of information God could have begun His message with, Genesis 1:1 must be what God knew was most important for man to know right from the start. It contains the information that man must remind himself of throughout his life. It is a message that Satan began to attempt to subvert and twist almost immediately.

The very first person God chose to introduce mankind to was Himself. He knew He would be the most important person for man to get to know. And so, His revelation to man begins with God and ends with Jesus (also God) (see Revelation 22:21). God knew that everything He would reveal about Himself was vital for both man's physical and spiritual well-being. No one is better equipped to be content in all of life's circumstances than the one who begins reading Genesis 1:1 and is immediately captivated, eager to read on. Reading on he develops a hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6) and the eternal welfare of his soul becomes his primary goal in life.

Man, without God, is a lost being. Ephesians 2:12 equates being without God in the world with being without

hope. Man has proven himself to be imaginative and innovative, inventing all sorts of designer gods. But these are not the God who introduces Himself in Genesis 1:1 and then proceeds to further describe Himself and tell what awesome deeds He has done for mankind. The very first deed God describes is the creation of the heavens and the earth. When Moses put pen to paper to record the events of the Pentateuch, God had already done many mighty works, any or all of which He could have used in Genesis 1:1. But He chose to begin with His creation. The Bible is filled with accounts of miracles, some of which seem more stupendous than others. But raising someone from the dead requires no more effort from God than walking on the Sea of Galilee. The God of Genesis 1:1 spoke into existence a complete, fully functioning universe intended to last as long as it suits the Creator. God said, "Let there be light" and instantly there it was: light existing where light had never been before; light itself never having existed before shining in an earth that had never existed before.

Reading Genesis 1:1, meditating upon it, and accepting it as absolute truth starts us on a journey of discovery of God's will for His creation, a journey whose destination is heaven itself. Genesis 1:1 is so much more than a verse to memorize.

