

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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The Simplicity Of God's Plan For Man-Part 1

Ron Tirey

I have always been amazed and perplexed that the majority of people struggle to understand God's plan for man in the bible. Some of these people can solve difficult math equations, understand complex laws of physics, etc.; yet when it comes to understanding simple passages, they fail to grasp their meaning. What is it that makes so many misinterpret God's plan for man?

Merriam Webster defines simplicity as: 1. *The state of being simple, uncomplicated, or uncompounded.* 2. *Freedom from pretense or guile.* Plato (Rep. ii.382 E) described God as being perfectly simple (haplous) and true, both in word and deed. In such "simplicity" is found openness, sincerity, and freedom from double-mindedness. Simplicity denotes the idea of being easy to grasp or understand, freedom from pretense or guile.

The word of God is written for mankind to understand. It is clearly revealed so that a person of honest heart can know what God desires so that they can please Him. A person should be devoted to learning and understanding the will of God, without pride or conceit interfering. A person should be willing to acknowledge his standing before God. He should be devoted to understanding God's word without guile or impure motives in his reading.

The above paragraph gives insight into why many fail to understand God's word. If you change any of the above concepts to suit yourself you are asking for trouble. You are not seeking God's truth, but a way to justify yourself. You cannot be truly devoted to doing God's will if you fail to humble yourself before Him. The simplicity of God's word allows one to read it and accept it as the word of the Creator. If you study the bible and research the prophecies and recorded history that authenticates everything passed down to us, you will find its accuracy astounding.

The irony is that man wants to complicate what God has made so clear. Man wants to rewrite God's plan in the way he thinks it should have been written. Today, many want to "modernize" the bible's message. They want to rewrite the bible in a way that justifies man in his current thinking and sins. Some claim the bible is too old and outdated to be God's message to modern people. They declare themselves to have a better grasp on God's desires today. They take simple passages out of context, twisting them to reflect their own desires, and arrogantly act as though they've achieved a new level of spirituality and insight. How proud they must be to take such a task upon themselves! The lowly clay telling the Potter how they wish to be molded. What arrogance!

However, our God wants all men to be saved. (I Timothy 2:4) His word is the same today, tomorrow, and forever. Isaiah 40:8 says, *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.* God would not be the God of the bible if He wrote scripture to confuse and mislead. If everyone were meant to get a different meaning from His holy book, there could be no clear path to eternal life. Fortunately, God's plan of salvation in hearing the word of God, believing it, repenting of sins, confessing Jesus as the Son of God, and being baptized to wash away our sins by contacting the cleansing

blood of our Savior through burial with Him in water, could not be simpler.

Matt. 11: 25 says *"I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants."* I believe the infants Jesus speaks of are the pure in heart who seek only truth in God's word. These humble hearts bow before their Creator and search the scripture to learn how to be saved and please Him.

God's word is easy to understand if one applies himself to grasp the message in its context. God is holy by nature and desires all men to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Peter 1:21 says, *"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* In I Timothy 2:3-4 we find, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

God's holy book takes us on a journey from creation to today to guide us to understanding who He is and what He expects us to be. God's word shows us how He dealt with the people in the Old Testament and His expectations for them; it then moves to the New Testament where He brings us to Christ. In his public ministry, Jesus taught in understandable language to lead us to the Father. The gospel is difficult to understand only for those who have no intention of believing it to begin with. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."* (false and unreal stories)

