

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 2**

Ron Tirey

In his pride, man has long sought to find something more mystical in the word of God. Man has long been drawn to the worship of images and idols. He has built great cathedrals and devised ornate ceremonies that appeal to his senses. Man loves his magnificent statues and elaborate facades. Inside these architectural masterpieces man fools many to think that all these grand structures and man conceived practices helps him better worship God.

Many refuse to let God dictate how He wants to be worshiped. The arrogance of the creature dictating to the Creator is staggering. How foolish and irresponsible can man be in rewriting or twisting God's word to make it say what he wants, rather than what God desires and commands? *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* (2 Corinthians 11:3)

The church of the New Testament knew nothing of such outlandish worship. On the day of Pentecost Peter delivered the first gospel sermon and approximately 3000 souls were baptized and added to the church. The church Jesus died for was established. The inspired writings of the apostles bring us to where we are today. There is no mention anywhere in the New Testament of God's children being directed to worship Him in the outlandish ways described above. In John 4:23-24, Jesus says, *But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

God's simple plan has led man through the ages and prepared His people so they can read His Word, understand it, obey His will, and enter into a relationship with Him as His adopted children. As Paul states in Ephesians 1:5,

*Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

God requires no mystical ceremonies spoken in dead languages. He seeks not fancy cathedrals. He can be worshiped under a tree, in your home, in a separate building, etc. What's important is the **hearts** of His faithful believers. God simply requires faithful, obedient believers to come before Him in the breaking of bread, prayer, song and preaching of His truths from His holy book. *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)*

Our beliefs and practices have been given to us through the inspired writings of the apostles. Nothing fancy is expected or required by God. He is interested in a good and honest heart dedicated to trusting His word and obeying the gospel. Revelation 22:18-19 declares, *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

Pride and rebellion are two reasons many people refuse to accept the simplicity of the Holy Scriptures. They refuse to believe that this simple message is all there is to believing, obeying, and becoming a child of God. They think there must be something grander than that. That is the same mindset that Naaman had when he was told to wash seven times in the Jordan River and his leprosy would be healed. *But Naaman became furious and went away and said, Indeed I said to myself, 'He (Elisha) will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy. (2 Kings 5:11)*

Man likes to make a spectacle where none is needed or required. He wants to put his "think so's" into interpreting God's will. There is no excuse for anyone to misunderstand God's Word if he will, like a child, accept the Bible for what it says, and be honest enough to obey it. He must accept the Bible as God's Word. He must believe that God could not be honest if He sought to hide the very things He will judge man by in the end.

We must accept the Bible as the final word on its own subjects, ignoring man's interpretations and twisting of the Scriptures. We must believe that God

knows what He's telling us is best for us; that He knows how to express Himself in understandable language, that He said what He meant, and nothing on man's part can ever change that. As Paul said, *The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...* (1 Corinthians 3:19) In another place, Paul taught that hearing the Word of God was sufficient to lead one to believe. *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? . . . But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:14-18)* It is up to each of us to compare what the preacher says to the word of God to determine if he is preaching the truth. We will be held accountable for this decision by God. Remember, Peter speaks of the "unlearned and unstable" wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16-18)

To find the truth you must first fully trust in God and believe that everything He has written is to help you, not only understand who He is, but to have faith that His instruction is for you to live the best life here on earth and know that His words will also provide the only path to salvation and life after death with Him in heaven. God is the only just and perfect Being, and the only one capable and worthy of unquestionable authority. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, *He is The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are justice; A God of truth and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.*

Thank God for the truthfulness and simplicity of His word, and the gospel of Jesus Christ! It is a testimony to the Omniscient Creator. What person(s) could write 66 books over a period of thousands of years, with the perfect harmony and simplicity of the Bible, without the divine inspiration of God? The Gospel is a message which can be learned and obeyed by every individual who has the God given ability to reason and the desire to do so. Thank God that we don't need to rely on the understanding of another man for salvation! We rest our hope and understanding on the unchanging God of Heaven, His Son, and His Word. That is simply the truth. Trust and obey!



