



THE MESSENGER

APRIL 12, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
7:30 PM

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ
445 Columbia Ave., Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

“BELOVED” (2)

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, opens his Ephesian letter by praising God for the spiritual blessings made available through the Son. In verses 5 and 6 of chapter 1 Paul wrote, *He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved.* Paul wrote much the same thing to the brethren in Colossae. *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* (Colossians 1:13-14) As we marvel at the great love of God, a love manifested in the giving of his only begotten son (John 3:16), let us marvel all the more that God the Father gave his only begotten **beloved** son.

The writers of the New Testament epistles must have been greatly influenced by the divine relationship between the Father and the Son. They often addressed other Christians as beloved. One might say, “Well, they were inspired to call each other beloved.” Such is true, but I don’t believe they did so reluctantly. I fully believe this word beloved had become part of their normal vocabulary.

Four times in his short letter Jude uses the word beloved. The first usage states Christians are beloved of God. Three times Jude refers to his brethren as beloved. (Verses 1, 3, 17, and 20). Consider how much easier it is to accept corrective instruction when it comes from someone of whom you are beloved. John wrote 3 letters. In his 3rd letter he referred to his brethren as beloved 4 times. (verses 1, 2, 5, and 11). In his 1st letter he used beloved 6 times. (2:7; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11) Verse 11 is especially impressive: *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love*

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Harrison, Spivey, and Brundige families, Ron Tirey, Marie Byers, Bennie Poynter, Michaela Garnett, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch

Others Needing Prayers

Karen Litmer, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Victoria Poynter, Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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Type in our name on Facebook, YouTube, or our website if you'd like to watch or just listen to our sermons.

one another. Peter used the word beloved 8 times in his two letters, one time regarding the transfiguration and 7 times regarding his brethren. Here is how he addressed Paul, even though Paul had publicly rebuked him. *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our **beloved** brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him. (2 Peter 3:15)* 3 times James softened his instructions with *my beloved brothers.* (1:16, 19; 2:5). Finally, Paul in almost all of his letters, both to churches and to individuals, repeatedly called them beloved.

May our relationships with our brethren and our attitudes towards them be, likewise, expressed by this word beloved. May it become as integral a part of our vocabulary as it is between God and his Son and as it was between the inspired New Testament writers and their brethren. When we hear it from the pulpit may we feel blessed to be so regarded by the one imparting God's word to us. May we actually and truly regard every brother and sister in Christ as beloved.

John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Bill Morelan	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

