



THE MESSENGER

JULY 5, 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

A VITAL ASPECT OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Jesus told them to take up their cross and follow him. (Matthew 16:24b) What a statement! In our Harmony of the Gospels study on Tuesday's, we've noted it is possible an occupied cross or two was visible to the disciples as they heard Jesus speak those words. He could have been pointing at one as he said it. Crosses and crucifixions were part of life throughout Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. They were grotesque and terrifying. Jesus said to take one up and follow him.

As they spent more time with Jesus, they would come to learn that his use of that gruesome illustration was to show the need to deny oneself entirely and follow him with full commitment and loyalty. (Matthew 16:24a) Yes, even if the threat of a real cross loomed across the very road they were walking.

Denying oneself, *really* doing it, does not come naturally and is such a hard thing to do consistently. It is a learned attitude of heart and maintained only through practice. According to Jesus, it most often shines forth in our treatment and behavior toward other people. The One who knelt to perform the task of the lowliest servant (John 13:1-11) would have us know this is where true kingdom greatness is found. (John 13:12-17)

He goes further in the judgment scene of Matthew 25:31-46. Heaven is closed to those without the self-denying and loving heart of a servant. Questions of baptism, authority, and proper forms of worship matter. Why would God have added them to His Book otherwise? Even so, I can quote you every baptism verse in Scripture but, if I have not the love that is truly willing to deny self to serve the Lord and others, to borrow Paul's

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Powell family, Mary Weatherholt, Bennie Poynter, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch

Others Needing Prayers

Jason Shepherd, Chassey Seabolt, Terry Daniels, Rachel White, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, 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

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

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

language, *I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.* (1 Corinthians 13:1)

What makes it so difficult to truly deny self on a consistent basis? Why is it so hard at times to be gracious, compassionate, thoughtful, and kind? Why is it so easy to forget about being a servant altogether? In my case, *I'm* the reason. Sometimes I find too much Adam in Adam and not enough Christ. As easy and light as the Lord's yoke is considering the extraordinary blessings in taking it, (Matthew 11:28-30) I still find myself occasionally chaffing at it. I see it in moments of selfishness. I see it when I forget to serve. I see it when I refuse to hear thoughts and opinions besides my own. I see it when I withhold compassion and empathy. I *hate* seeing it, but I still do sometimes.

No one can *really* take up their cross unless they have first denied self in favor of Christ. May our God graciously help us to do just that.

Adam Litmer

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

