



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
March 13

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom
Friday, 12:30, Fayette Mall
food court

Saturday, 10, Panera
(Georgetown)

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

March 4, 7:30

Address and Contact

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

"THE PRESENT DISTRESS"

As I mentioned last Sunday evening, I have received a number of questions concerning 1 Corinthians 7. This interesting chapter is filled with statements that have puzzled Christians for a very long time. I will do my best to respond in biblical and helpful ways. I continue to wrestle with some of these questions myself. Therefore, in some cases, I will provide a handful of common understandings among good Bible students. In such cases I encourage you to measure and weigh them according to the immediate context and remainder of Scripture.

The question we will focus upon in this first response is, "What is the present distress of verse 26?" In fact, this is not a question that has been submitted but is, in my estimation, the first one we need to consider from this chapter. Everything said in this chapter is within the context of "the present distress." Some conclude that it is something peculiar to Corinth at the time of Paul's writing and, as a result, believe very little if anything from the chapter has continuing application for the church today. I disagree for two primary reasons. Before reading further here, I encourage you to take a few minutes to read 1 Corinthians 7.

First, in verse 17 Paul says, *Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.* We will talk more about the first part of this verse, along with verses 18-24, in another article. For our purposes I wish to point out that Paul's instruction is his "rule in all the churches." In other words, this wasn't just for the Corinthian Christians going through a unique "present distress." Indeed, as one considers Paul's final thought in verse 31, *For the present*

Members Needing Our Prayers

Larry Billiter, Rick Small, Jill Harrison, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

form of this world is passing away, he is emphasizing a universal truth, not one peculiar to the Corinthian church. In verses 32-35, which we'll discuss further in another article, Paul is urging "undivided devotion to the Lord." (35b) Again, this is a universal need for Christians, not one unique to brethren in Corinth during a peculiar "present distress."

Second, if a peculiar "present distress" unique to Corinth motivated Paul's writing, then everything in this first letter is within the confines of that "present distress." What in the letter requires continued application and what was only for the time of the "present distress"? Who gets to say and by what authority?

I do not believe "the present distress" was a situation unique to first century Christians in Corinth, but speaks of the life of all Christians in these final days before the return of Christ. I believe it speaks to the challenges of striving to be a faithful Christian in a world that opposes it. I pray that our consideration of this fascinating chapter in the coming weeks will be helpful.

Adam Litmer

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

