

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**

The Osborne family, Jim Parsons, Rachel Thompson, Jill Harrison, Larry Billator, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt), Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, 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, Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Sandra Queen, Linda Moore, Virginia Gordon, Glenn Lake, Annie Allen

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## Giving And Receiving

John Thompson

Without a doubt people love to give. If that were not so, there would not be so many special days designated as opportunities to give gifts. Anniversaries, birth days, Mother's Day, Father's Day, secretary's day, and so on, all reminding us of Paul's statement to the Ephesian that Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 19:35) For the most part we give because we want to give. We give cheerfully because we want to give cheerfully; it pleases us to give cheerfully. And, we give generously because we want to give generously; we value the one receiving the gift and we fully intend to give a gift that reflects how much we value the recipient. Consequently, we put much thought and planning into insuring that our gifts are just right for the intended recipient.

For every gift given there is a recipient. If the recipient of the gift meets all of the giver's expectations in

giving, then the giver comes away with very positive feelings about the transaction and all of his forethought and planning are worthwhile. Frequently, however, the receiver does not value the gift in a way that matches the value placed upon it by the giver. Perhaps he or she briefly examines the gift, says a rather unemotional “thank you” and moves on to other things. Perhaps the recipient says something like, “just what I needed, another...” When the giver senses that the recipient does not value the gift as much as he or she does, disappointment sets in and the relationship may suffer.

The bible tells us that the greatest of all possible givers has given the greatest of all possible gifts for the greatest of all possible motives. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)* There can be no one greater than God. Elihu, the youngest of those who thought they knew the reasons for Job’s misery stated a truism about God: *Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. (Job 33:12)* Psalm 99 is all about the majesty and glory and greatness of God. *The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. (Psalm 99:1-2)*

There can be no greater gift than the only begotten Son of God. Colossians 1:15-17 informs us of the value of Jesus. *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* This is the gift that God gave us. Would any of us dare say that God has not placed the highest of all possible values upon His gift?

This gift has proceeded from the greatest of all possible motives: *For God so loved the world.* “The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; it goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell.” God planned this gift before the world was even created. No human has ever put such forethought into a gift.

Little space is left to go into our response to this gift. Perhaps these verses will bring to mind others. *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)* *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)*



