

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

Note

I did a little maintenance on the prayer list. If you would like to be on it, or know someone we should be praying for, please write it down for me. Thanks!

In need of prayers

Jim Parsons (Janice and Elizabeth, too), Diane Thompson, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt), Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Lois Weatherholt, Cassie Neel, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Sandra Queen, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege, Chassey Seabolt, Edwina Cowherd, Karen Litmer

University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 48

November 11, 2018

An Important Lesson Often Missed

Adam Litmer

So they asked him...“Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not?” But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose likeness (image—NKJ) and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer became quiet. (Luke 20:21-26)

This familiar passage shows us the enemies of Jesus attempting to get him in trouble with Rome, the people, or both. Our Lord’s brilliant answer shows that fulfilling basic civic obligations is not inconsistent with one’s allegiance to God. Passages such as Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-15 further emphasize this point.

However, there is a rarely noticed lesson here that revolves around the Lord's use of the word "image." The coins of the day were minted with images of Caesar upon them. He had them made, stamped his picture on them, and so in that sense they "belonged" to him. Jesus is instructing them to give Caesar that which is his.

Jesus then instructed them to give to God the things that are God's. Having used Caesar's image just a moment before to make the point that Caesar is owed his rightful due, it is clear that Jesus intends for them to keep the "image" thought in mind. How might such a thought be applied to giving God His due? *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* (Genesis 1:26-27)

If their coins belonged to Caesar because his image was stamped upon them, then they themselves belonged to God for they were made in His image. The point of this passage goes far beyond performing civic duty to performing our ultimate obligation to God. To give Him His due is to give Him the entirety of ourselves for His image is stamped upon us in a much

more profound way than Caesar's (or past American presidents, for that matter) was/is stamped on a coin or dollar bill.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:1-2) What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. (Psalm 116:12-14)

Would we render unto God that which is His? Then we must give Him everything we are. Anything less than whole hearted devotion is too little and fails to make return according to the wonderful benefits done for us. (2 Chronicles 32:25)

We are each made in the image of God. This means that we belong to Him. Let's purpose to live with this truth in mind every day of our lives.

