

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

Jim Parsons, Edith Huffman, 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, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege, Chassey and Paisley Seabolt, Tammy Goble, Veronica Bowman, Cindi Bradbury (multiple sclerosis, recent eye surgery, and a fall that broke her arm), Jennifer Strutz, Steve Stewart (Chris's father, severe allergies causing significant and continuing health concerns) Linda Humphrey (neighbor of Rick and Kim. She is scheduled to have surgery this week for breast cancer)

University Heights Messenger

Volume 11--Number 1

January 2, 2019

Thank You, God, for Patience

John Thompson

We have so much to thank our heavenly Father for, but patience? Should we put patience on our list of things to be thankful for? Should it be part of our daily prayers? In a recent sermon on waiting on the Lord, patience was discussed at length. The selflessness of patience and the selfishness of impatience were often repeated themes in that lesson. The sermon was a very important and much needed exhortation and, hopefully, it has already produced positive results in your life.

But what is there about patience that makes it something to be thankful for? Is it something like rain or sunshine? No, it is probably something much more intangible than those things. Perhaps we should consider it to be a blessing from the Father, a blessing that benefits us immensely and without which we would find it virtually impossible to be pleasing to our Maker. I would suggest that we should thank God for creating this thing called patience that is so intimately a part of all that goes into making a faithful, fully committed, obedient Christian. Our thankfulness should include the fact that we are created with an innate capacity to learn what patience is all about, to appreciate its usefulness to the Christian, and to grow in its application as we live from day to day. We cannot endure without patience. We cannot persevere without patience. We cannot be gentle and kind without patience. We cannot trust without patience. We cannot love without patience. The bottom line is that we simply cannot be pleasing to God without patience.

Take endurance, for instance. How in the world are we to get through the darkness of difficult times to the light on the other side of the darkness if we do not endure? Patience is what gets us through. Patience

enables us to remain calm and when calm, we are able to reason things through. Patience puts us into the proper frame of mind consistent with prayer, with Bible reading and meditation, and with remembering that God has promised better things. Here is what Jesus wrote to some of the seven churches of Asia:

To the church at Ephesus: *I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.* (Revelation 2:3)

To the church at Thyatira: *I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.* (Revelation 2:19)

To the church at Philadelphia: *I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.* (Revelation 3:10)

Endurance is not consistent with some constantly happy-go-lucky, stress free, all's right with the world time. No, endurance implies hard work, struggle, despair, temptation, persecution, and various and sundry other plagues of life. Endurance is our victory over such obstacles and patience is what carries us through. Some obstacles are specifically mentioned in the scriptures. Paul told Timothy he must patiently endure evil (2 Timothy 2:24), and he wrote to the Corinthians commending them for patiently enduring the same sufferings he experienced. (2 Corinthians 1:6).

It seems, though, that we will more likely experience impatience than patience unless we can train ourselves away from that deadly attitude. Impatience is manifested in a variety of ways, such as: We cannot wait; we cannot tolerate, put up with, sit through, submit, or persevere. While impatient we may become irritable, agitated, fidgety, mouthy, obnoxious, disruptive. Impatience is selfish in that it places expectations upon others. If I expect you to cater to my need to not have to wait, who benefits? Not you. You are the one that my impatience is inconveniencing. My impatience benefits only me, and that is the essence of selfishness, i.e. seeing to my welfare at the expense of all others. When you get right down to it impatience is a failure of endurance and perseverance. Impatience makes no provision

for gentleness and kindness and destroys one's capacity for love. Remember 1 Corinthians 13:4? *Love is patient and kind.*

But we can learn to be more patient. We must learn to be patient. And we can grow our patience by sitting at the feet of Jesus, the Master Teacher. Paul stated his desire for those Christians in Thessalonica, *Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.* (2 Thessalonians 3:5, NKJV). No man has ever been calmer and more patient than the Christ Jesus as he proceeded through his trials and crucifixion. *When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.* (1 Peter 2:23)

Sometimes we sing "None of Self and All of Thee". Our hymn book leaves out the wording in verse 3 that is in bold type below

*Day by day His tender mercy
Healing, helping, full and free,
Sweet and strong, and ah! so patient
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
"Less of self, and more of Thee!"*

We sing "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee". Perhaps the next time we sing this song verses 3 and 4 will remind us of our responsibility to learn of and grow in patience.

Teach me Thy patience! Still with Thee in closer, dearer company, In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live.

Thank you, God, for patience. And, thank you, Adam, for the sermon.

