



THE MESSENGER

JULY 26, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

August 9 at 5 pm

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

THOUGHTS FROM A DIFFICULT PASSAGE (3)

As we conclude our consideration of Exodus 34:6-7, the most referenced passage in the Hebrew Scriptures, we will consider the tremendous comfort and grace contained within it.

“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.”

No one can limit God’s power, match his mind, or prevent him from doing what he decides to do. This can be wonderful or terrifying depending upon the nature of God and how man chooses to respond to him.

God describes his nature and greatest delight in the five descriptions of verse 6. He describes himself as merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in both steadfast love and faithfulness. When we consider that this covenant is similar to a wedding ceremony where the husband (God) decides to marry the bride (Israel) even after her unfaithfulness to him *during the ceremony*, it is hard not to rejoice and marvel at these attributes of God.

Never stop appreciating that the One who holds the world in the palm of his hand is unendingly trustworthy and constantly prepared to extend all of the love, grace, and mercy he can while remaining true to his nature. Punishment brings him no satisfaction.

Verse 7 begins. *Keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and sin.* The “thousands” here is best understood as representing generations. In fact, it is set against

Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, Mary Weatherholt, Alexa Lake, Bennie Poynter, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch

Others Needing Prayers

Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Demetrius Booker, Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, Chassey Seabolt, Terry Daniels, 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), 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.

the “third and the fourth generation” of the end of the passage. The point is that God’s greatest desire, the thing that brings him the highest degree of joy, is unbroken fellowship with his people. He never tires of it or has enough. In fact, so strong is his desire to share fellowship with those who love him, he will forgive their sins as they repent of them even though the act of a sinful person repenting does not merit forgiveness. What’s more, God will never cease forgiving his genuinely repentant child. This is what it means for God to be merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

The description of God found in these verses becomes a pattern for his interactions with people throughout the Bible. In fact, it is a pattern that is playing out in the world right now. Having demonstrated his love to all mankind by sending Jesus, God continues to grant man time to respond to that good news. Though he will judge the rebellious and unrepentant, fellowship is what he longs for. May we long for it as he does and serve as fellow workers to bring it about. 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	

