



# THE MESSENGER

## SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

### NEWS AND NOTES

**Congregational Meeting**  
September 13 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](http://www.uheightschurch.com)

### “OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD”

A fad is defined as an “intense and widely shared enthusiasm for something, especially one that is short-lived and without basis in the object's qualities.” Another name for a fad is a craze. A fad is something that catches on, becomes intensely popular for a time, and then fades into obscurity. Almost anything is capable of becoming a fad; a song, a person, an idea, a piece of literature, even a word or phrase. When words take on new meanings and are able to be utilized in new and unique ways our language becomes quite versatile and adaptable. However, words that get caught up in faddish speech lose much of their original strength and power, and, when out of vogue, they seldom regain what they lost. Of interest to this article is the word awesome.

Awesome was originally a very strong and powerful word, used almost exclusively to describe that which would elicit awe, that is astonishment, wonder, amazement, and other jaw-dropping, action-halting, falling to one's knees responses. Now, the word is more frequently used to describe anything one might find likeable. It is even used as a noncommittal, meaningless response, much like a grunt, to something someone has just said to you. For example, upon arriving at work your coworker asks about your weekend. You say, “It was pretty good.” Then the other responds, “Awesome.” In a very real sense this word has become what someone has termed the American adjective, used in place of all others. Consequently, it ranges from the meaningless to meaning anything and everything.

It should be no surprise to students of the Bible that awesome is a biblical word. A word search of the ESV finds 33 instances of awesome. There are several words in the ancient Hebrew that are translated awesome, as well as other words such as fear, trembling, and reverence. Although I have not researched every Hebrew word translated with awesome, I suspect nowhere in the Bible are they used in some common or colloquial fashion. When I read down through the verses containing awesome, I noticed that all 33 instances occur in the Old Testament. Searching other translations found only one instance of awesome in Acts and that passage was quoting from Joel. That which impressed me the

## 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.

most is that all 33 passages describe God or something about Him. In the Bible it is God who is awesome. There is none like God. List every good quality which one can possess and God is the very essence of each of them, and while a single individual will never possess the entire list of qualities, God does. There is nothing common or ordinary about the Almighty God, and there is nothing common or ordinary about His awesomeness. And so, when a brother prays and calls God awesome, or when we sing, "Our God is an awesome God," may we have in mind, not some trivial use of awesome, but rather the most powerful and reverent thoughts we can muster.

*Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, **awesome** in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (From the Song of Moses, Exodus 15:11) For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (Spoken by Moses prior to entering the promised land. Deuteronomy 10:17) Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the **awesome** God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. (Nehemiah 9:32; see also 4:14 In2 1:5)*

John Thompson

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	

