



The May youth devotional will be hosted by Ryan & Ashley Stryker. More details to come!

June 14-19 Hensel Camp.

July 19-24 Peach Valley Camp.



EDUCATION

Tuesday Classes

The Tuesday Men's Class will break for the summer beginning April 28 (class will not be held this day). The Ladies' Tuesday Class will take a summer break in May TBA.

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, May 3 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Never Alone." More than 44 percent of all adults in the United States are unmarried; that's more than 102 million people. Living alone presents many challenges to adults today, but the Lord's way provides some valuable help to single people.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Mondays (every first and third week)
Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 PM
Tuesdays (September through May)
Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Clay Bond

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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www.midtowncoc.org

APRIL 26, 2015

"Spiritual Growth" by Clay Bond

There are people who have grown up in the church, but have never grown in the Christ. What I mean by that is that there Christians who have been members of the church of Christ for years, but they have never grown spiritually. Just like those being addressed in Hebrews 5:11-14, they have remained babes in Christ! Most would agree that the writer of Hebrews addressed these comments to people who had been Christians for twenty, or even 30 years, but who had failed "grow up" in Christ.

We must be honest that a lack of spiritual growth is detrimental to our soul. It produces mediocrity, indifference, apathy and spiritual stagnation, none of which are pleasing to God (Hebrews 10:38). When a person does not grow spiritually, they have no way of having their spiritual "senses exercised to discern both good and evil" and

therefore they are in no position to bring glory to God (Hebrews 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; John 15:8). The goal of spiritual growth is to build Christ-like character. Jesus Christ said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."

John 8:31

passages that put a tremendous amount of emphasis on spiritual growth. When Jesus gave the great commission He stressed the importance of spiritual growth by stating that those who are taught the gospel and baptized need further teaching (Matthew 28:18-20). After baptism, every Christian needs to add to their faith the Christian graces recorded in 2 Peter 1:5-11. In fact, the whole of 2nd Peter emphasizes spiritual growth. Peter defines spiritual growth in chapter one, talks about the challenges to spiritual growth in chapter two and gives incentives for spiritual growth in chapter three. Additional passages that discuss spiritual growth are: 1 Timothy 4:12-15; Ephesians 4:14-15; Philippians 1:9-10 and Colossians 1:9-10.

Spiritual growth does not happen by accident. First, there must be a sincere desire to grow. Peter wrote, "As newborn babes, de-

There are a host of

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
APRIL 19, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....130

Sunday Morning Assembly.....167

Sunday Evening Assembly.....106

Offering: \$4,344

You are now able to listen and download Mid-Town church of Christ's Sunday morning and evening sermons including the Spring Gospel Series online at soundcloud.com/idtownchurchofchrist (Note: this automatically generated address removed the capital letters to shorten length.)



sire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3). Sometimes, Christians start off on fire for the Lord, but over time they lose that zeal and their faith becomes like smoldering coils, dwindling and on the verge of going completely out. If that describes your faith, you need to rekindle the fire that at one time burned with in you. Remember, we are to be fervent in spirit as we serve the Lord (Romans 12:11).

Secondly, if we are going to grow we need to be spiritually nourished. Jesus reminds us that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). God's word is our spiritual food. If we are to walk by faith, we are going to have to feed our faith. Paul wrote, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). You can look strong and healthy physically, but spiritually you can be frail, weak and shriveled up because your faith is not getting the proper nourishment. Sometimes, we will go days without feeding our faith. How can we expect to go grow if we are not hungering and thirsting after the word of God (Matthew 5:6)? We should determine to be like the Berean Christians who searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). An important question we should each ask ourselves is: Do I spend more time, effort and energy nourishing my body or my soul? Remem-

ber what Jesus said, "life is more than meat" (Luke 12:23). To grow spiritually, we must become like Job who loved God's word more than his necessary food (Job 23:12).

Thirdly, if we are going to grow we need to get some spiritual exercise. It is interesting that God uses terminology related to physical development to help us understand the importance of spiritual development. It is not enough to simply desire spiritual growth and to feast on God's word; we must also exercise our faith. Paul told Timothy, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). God wants us to be doers of the word not just hearers (James 1:22-25) If we never make application of the Scriptures they do us no good (Luke 6:46).

Every Christian needs to be growing. Every Christian can be growing if they will cultivate in their heart a sincere desire to grow, determine to take proper nourishment from the Scriptures and set their minds to make application of God's Word. Remember, spiritual growth does not happen overnight. It takes time, patience and effort on our part. If we will do our part, God will work with us and polish us into the shiny diamond that is of great worth in the sight of God.

News
& ACTIVITIES

Today!

Clay Bond will answer bible questions from the Q&A box the last Sunday evening of every month.

Sunday, May 3

The monthly Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 4 & 18

The Monday Ladies' Class will meet at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 7

The Young Ladies' Potluck Lunch will be held at Noon.

Sunday, May 17

Plan to attend a Fellowship Meal honoring 2015 graduate Chant Parker.

Saturday, May 30

There will be a quarterly Men's Breakfast.

- Homewood Team #4 will meet today.
- If you didn't get your photo done with Lifetouch Photography, please see Janet Morales.
- Like Us on Facebook for bulletin updates and sermons by searching "Midtown church of Christ"

Keep in PRAYER

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Sandy Malone
Bob Neel
Ann Pantel



Glen Pitts
Rex Sims
Etta Williams

& Friends Family:

Cynthia Barrett,
daughter of Dee Gilpatrick
Josephine Escojido,
mother of Lupe Escojido
Pam Hawkins,
daughter-in-law of June
Jim Hinchey,
brother-in-law of Lupe Escojido
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Perliene Johnson,
mom of Patsy Randle
Dorothy Koenig,
mother of Mickey DeDear

Dorothy McCarn
aunt of Pam Clifton
Edna Randall,
aunt of Randy Tipton
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Ernest Rundzieher,
brother of Jackie Rutherford
Richard Smith,
uncle of Les Daltry
Ray Shannon,
son of Donna
Mark Withers,
nephew of Clark
Ray Williams,
son of Etta