



Saturday, May 23
The youth devotional will be hosted by Ryan & Ashley Stryker at 4 p.m. at their home, 624 River Ranch Rd.

Summer Camps:
June 14-19 Hensel Camp.
July 19-24 Peach Valley Camp.

EDUCATION

Summer Series Begins in June

Invite your friends to join you for the MidTown Summer Series held from June 3 through August 26 at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. The topic for the adult series will be, "Great Questions in the Bible."

The youth classes can expect to have combined singing as well as special memory work leading to an end-of-summer awards ceremony.

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "What Have You Done?" When this life is over, we will look back at our lives wondering what we have done that mattered. Many spend their entire lives pursuing empty paths, but the one who is faithful to God pursues righteousness. What have you done?

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

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

"THE PRIDE OF WEALTH" by Clay Bond

When attitudes about money are not held in check, wealth can easily become a breeding ground for pride. While we may not consider ourselves wealthy, the fact that we live in the United States, in this era, places us among the most prosperous people in all of history. We want to look at several things that contribute to the pride of wealth.

One contributing factor to the pride of wealth is misplaced affection; often wealthy people grow to love their prosperity and identify themselves as the source of their wealth. God warned His people about the tendency of prosperity to cause ideas of self-sufficiency in Deuteronomy 8:11-17. This text warns us that it is very easy to fall into the belief that we have gained our wealth from our own abilities. However, it is God who gives us the physical ability and intelligence to work and the prudence to properly manage what is gained by that work. Each of these elements is necessary for prosperity to result, and each of these can only be attributed to God.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall"

Prov. 16:18

uted to God.

The high-mindedness brought about by prosperity can be seen in the life of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. As Nebuchadnezzar observed the work of his hands he commented, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built" (Daniel 4:30). Readers of the New Testament are warned against thinking of themselves more highly than we should (1 Tim. 6:17; Rom. 12:3).

The rich farmer of Luke 12:18 displays another of these troubling characteristics, selfishness. He had gained so much that he had no room to store it all. His solution was to lay it all up for himself and take his ease. After all, why would he give it to others? It was all the result of *his* work!

Bound within each of these characteristics is the "I" syndrome. The tendency to think of ones self as the source of one's physical prosperity is a very typical symptom of the love

of money. It is followed closely by the desire to preserve our wealth for our own benefit and the feeling that, because we possess great riches, we are in control of our own destiny.

From the rich and famous Hollywood stars who think they are untouchable, to wealthy, connected politicians who think they are above the law, we see self-dependency all around us. However, this characteristic is not just seen in the lives of individuals. It prevails in groups as well. The congregation of Laodicea was so proud of its physical wealth that it could not see its own spiritual destitution (Rev. 3:17).

The warnings in Scripture against glorying in our riches must never be ignored. The people in Jeremiah's day were guilty of precisely this, and they found themselves denying the very source of their prosperity. Their idols were silver and gold (Ps. 115:4), and they denied the true and living God. Because they gloried in their riches, they declared "we will not hearken" (Jer. 6:17), "we will not obey" (Jer. 42:13) and "we will not walk" (Jer. 6:16).

Pride is a force more capable of bringing men down than any other found in nature, even surpassing the power of gravity. It is capable of bringing down the highest king and corrupting the lowliest servant. This force has caused families to be destroyed, nations to be ravaged by war, communities to spend years in conflict and congregations to be shattered. Whether it is a nation, congregation or individual person who is lifted up with pride, the arrogance it brings is a sure way to end up flat on one's face, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

Of all the diseases of the soul, the single worst is pride, for its very nature prevents the one infected from seeing his problem and seeking



Sunday, May 17

Join us for a Sunday Fellowship meal following evening services to honor 2015 graduate:

CHANT PARKER

Please bring sandwiches, chips and dips. A cake will be provided and there will be a basket for your cards and best wishes.

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
MAY 3, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....134

Sunday Morning Assembly.....156

Sunday Evening Assembly.....103

Offering: \$5,235

God's cure. This is especially so when the source of that pride is wealth. It seems that mankind has always had a problem with associating wealth with greatness and with the approval of God. If we recognize our dependence on God, give Him credit for the many great blessings in our lives and determine to share those blessings with others, perhaps we will be able to keep pride at bay.

News

& ACTIVITIES

Monday, May 18

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

Saturday, May 30

There will be a quarterly Men's Breakfast at the church building at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 31

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

- Homewood Team #2 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.
- Fifty-six dollars from the Ladies' Tuesday Bible Class is being sent to Harvey Starling in Romania. These funds are used towards quilts and food bags for those in need.



WELCOME:

Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez and her children Christian and Sabrina, have asked to be identified with the MidTown congregation. Please be sure to make them feel welcome!

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez** in prayer who responded to the invitation Sunday.

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