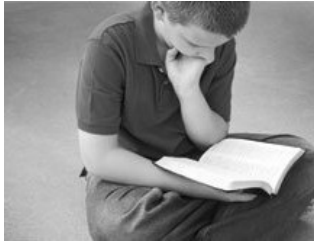


Youth NEWS



The next Jr./Sr. High Devo

will be hosted by the Cleveland Family on Sunday, January 14 following evening services.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, January 7 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "From God or Men?" When some Pharisees questioned Jesus about His authority, He answered by asking whether John's baptism was from God or men. Whether our authority is from God or men matters to our souls.

SUNDAYS

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

ELDERS

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India

Student Support
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 Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

DECEMBER 31, 2017

"SUCH AN ONE AS THYSELF" (continued from last week)

by Ronnie Scherffius

Thinking that God is like man we will be tempted to believe that God will be slack in His word. Unkept promises are a great source of discouragement. Some make promises with no intentions of fulfilling their word—they are simply looking for an advantage. Seeking votes politicians often make promises that are impossible to keep. Some promises are made with the greatest of intentions but circumstances beyond our control render us incapable of following through on our word.

God is not like man in this respect! In fact, it is against His very nature to make a promise that He has no intention to fulfill. Moses declared "God is not a man, that he

Saul's disobedience Samuel affirmed, "the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent" (1 Sam. 15:29).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"

should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good" (Num. 23:19). In condemnation of

Our God is the God of covenant and promise—faithful to His word! (Deut. 7:9; Psa. 89:33-35; Isa. 25:1) Habakuk wrote that the words of God "will surely come" (Hab. 2:3) and Peter set forth plainly the timeless truth of God's faithfulness to His word: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

Unlike man God is *always* faithful to His word. And though He may wait for a time

2 Pet. 3:9

to bring about its fulfillment, God's word will surely come to pass. (Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:6; et al) We must be careful not to be tempted to believe that God will be slack in His word!

Thinking that God is like man we will convince ourselves that God does not hate sin. Wondering why the wicked thrive and prosper Job pondered, "Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?" (Job 21:7) Considering their life he continued, "They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave" (Job 21:2-13). In essence, Job says, the wicked not only prosper but also have great pleasure in their sins. James spoke of those who "lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton;" (James 5:5), and Peter condemned men who "count it pleasure to riot in the day time" and who "cannot cease from sin" (2 Pet. 2:13-14). "Woe unto them," Isaiah declared, "that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20) Because man fails to see the true nature of sin he adores it rather than abhors it! Sin is not to be enjoyed but hated and despised because sin is that which separates God from man (Isa. 59:1-2) and causes spiritual death. God through the prophet proclaimed, "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek 18:4), and Paul instructed "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). The terribleness of sin can be seen most clearly in the cross of Calvary. Jesus Christ, a man in whom there was no sin (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5) became "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3) because "he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities" (Isa. 53:5). Innocent and

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
DECEMBER 24, 2017	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	118
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	160
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	87
Wednesday Attendance.....	85
Offering: \$9,228	

pure He was made an offering for our sin that we through His sufferings might be reconciled to God.

Sin is a perversion of the right ways of God—it is against the very nature of His holiness! Unlike man, God has no affection for sin. David wrote, "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity" (Psa. 5:5). Such strong language clearly reveals God's hatred for sin!

God created man in His own image, but man has set out to make God into the image of man. When we begin to think that God is like us we will fail to show Him the reverence He deserves and hold His authority in contempt. Through Isaiah God declared, "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me" (Isa. 46:9). In our words, by our deeds, and through our lives we should strive always to be like God—not make God like us. God is not like man: He is the Creator—we are His creation; He is Independent—we are dependent upon Him; He is the Lawmaker—we are under His law; He will be the Judge—we will be judged by Him.

News

& ACTIVITIES

Saturday, January 20

MidTown will host its annual Ladies' Day.

Sunday, January 28

Ronnie will answer bible questions placed in the "mailbox" in the foyer every fourth Sunday evening.

- The Tuesday Bible Classes will break until January 9.
- Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting picante sauce and sandwich bags. Please place these items in the boxes in the hallway.
- See the 2018 sign up sheets in the hallway on ways you can help serve!
- A memorial service for Sheryl Herring will be on January 6 at 10:30 a.m. at Central Church of Christ. Meal will follow.

CARE GIVER

Our God Given Role

MIDTOWN'S LADIES' DAY

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.

Lunch provided.



Speaker:
Athena Scherffius

Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady

Les Daltry

Frank Farris

Jan Farris

Lucille Hawkins

Faye Henderson

Betty Key

Sandy Malone

Ann Pantel

Glenodine Pitts

Bob Smith

Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Mary Lou Arguelles

sister of Virginia Escojido

Buster Bailey

former MidTown

Victor Benitez

brother of Virginia Escojido

Ginger Holmes

niece of Karon Barton

Kim Neel-Farthing

daughter of Joyce

Susie Mesa

former MidTown

Scarlet O'Neill

friend of Yvonne Smith

Sarah Randle

mother of Steve

Harish Reddy

brother-in-law of

Archana Verma

Cynthia Sneeringer

mother of Angela

James Tipton

father of Randy Tipton