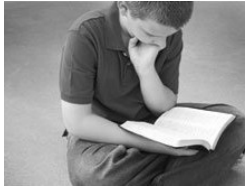


Youth NEWS



The Jr./Sr. High Devotional will be hosted by the Scherffius Family on **Sunday, September 10** following evening services.

Education NEWS

The Tuesday Men's and Ladies' Bible Studies will resume on Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, September 10 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Is God Active Today?" Some think God is absent in our world today; others say God is dead. The Bible teaches God is indeed alive and active in the world today and is working for our good. We can be thankful to have a God who cares for us.

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

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

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

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

"TRAVELS WITH PAUL: THE SHIPWRECK AT MALTA"

by Ronnie Scherffius

And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, ³¹Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. ³²Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. ³³And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. ³⁴Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. ³⁵And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. ³⁶Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. ³⁷And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls. ³⁸And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. ³⁹And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. ⁴⁰And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore." (Acts 27:30-40)

At first glance, the above text seems little more than an inspired historical account of a part of Paul's life. But, with a closer look we can find some practical lessons that will instruct us as we live daily the Christian life.

We must cut ties with worldliness (Acts 27:32). Some try to hold on to former lives. Ancient Israel tried to hold on to Egyptian worship (Exodus 32); Jewish Christians in the first century tried to hold

on to the law of Moses (Acts 15:1, 5; Romans 10:1-3; et. al.). Some today return to former companions and the lives they once lived only to become entangled in the sin from which Christ's blood delivered them (2 Pet. 2:20-22). As Christians we are *new creatures*. Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). God has called us "out of darkness and into his mar-

velous light” by the gospel preached by the apostles (1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Thess. 2:14).

As a new creature we walk a new life that is in the light of God and not in the darkness of this world (Rom. 6:3-4; 1 John 1:5-7). This means cutting ties, and sometimes cutting ties with those who have been closest to us. Of the marriage relationship God said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). The admonition to leave and cleave is simply another way saying cutting ties with one and bonding to another. Paul compared the relationship of Christ and the church to that of a husband and wife (Eph. 5:21-33) and in the Revelation we find the church referred to directly as the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17). As much as we are the bride of Christ we must leave former things and cleave to Christ.

We must partake of spiritual food for their health (Acts 27:33-35). Without food we will die! This is a fact understood very clearly from our physical lives. This same principle holds true spiritually: “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2). Without spiritual nourishment there is no growth and without growth we cannot live spiritually. God has given us His word for a purpose. Not only does the gospel save us (Rom. 1:16) but the Word of God will instruct us how not to sin (1 John 2:1), sanctify us from the world that we may serve God (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:1), and build us up that we might receive the inheritance of eternal life (Acts 20:32). We must partake of spiritual food for our health.

We must cast off burdens that hinder (Acts 27:36-38). Paul wrote of Demas who “loved this present world” (2 Tim. 4:10) and Jesus spoke to a rich young ruler who was unwilling to lay aside his worldly riches and fully commit to following Him (Mark 10:17-22). For us the hindering cause may not be wealth, but family, friends, recreation, work, education, or just plain laziness. The Hebrews writer admonished, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with

patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:1-2). We must be willing to lay aside and cast off the burdens that hinder our faithful obedience and chart a course of following Christ.

The saved are in the church (Acts 27:31). A final lesson to consider from this chapter of Paul’s life is that of being in the church. When the first gospel sermon was preached and believers were baptized we learn that the Lord added them to the church (Acts 2:37-47). Once added to the church we must abide in the church in order to be saved. Paul instructed the centurion, “Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved” (Acts 27:31). None were saved outside of the ship and none will be saved outside of the church. God has always *located* salvation in a particular place. For those in Noah’s day it was in the ark (Gen. 6-8); for Israel in Egypt at the time of the tenth plague it was in the house with blood on it (Ex. 12). Our salvation from final judgment is also located in a place - the house that was purchased with the blood of Christ. As Christians we must cut ties with worldly influences. While on paper this may seem easy, the task may prove to be more challenging when we are faced with a reality of severing relations with people to whom we are extremely close or activities we greatly enjoy. Nevertheless, our love for Christ must be superior to our love for all else (Matt. 10:37). Spiritual nourishment that will cause us to grow in knowledge and wisdom, and a faith that casts off burdens that hinder our faithful obedience to God are all lessons that we learn from Paul’s shipwreck at Miletus. What spiritual lessons can you learn from a deeper study of the travels of Paul?

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
AUGUST 20, 2017	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	115
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	146
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	93
Wednesday Attendance.....	85
Offering: \$4,818	

News

& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, September 10
Monthly Men’s Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 17
MidTown will recognize youth earning awards for Bible memory work during the summer following evening services.



Sunday, September 24 There will be a potluck meal following morning services with evening service moved to 1 p.m.

BACK TO THE BIBLE

MidTown’s Fall Gospel Meeting



You are invited to attend a series of gospel sermons.

Sept. 24-27

Sunday, Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.

- “What You Need To Know About The Bible”
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m.

- “The First Christians In The Bible”
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m.

- “The Church of The Bible”
Monday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

- “Passages That Have Helped Me Live The Bible”
Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.

- “What The Bible Says About Hell”
Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

- “What The Bible Says About Heaven”

Keep in PRAYER

IN SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Jackie Kasper** daughter of Connie Kasper.



MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson

Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Susie Mesa
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
Gillette Ferguson,
brother in Vernal, Utah
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Keith Lempa,
son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton

Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
family of Karon Barton
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnolds
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scheffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory