

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

April 15, 2018

Issue 5

THE SIN OF HYPOCRISY (PART 2)

Ronnie Scherffius

DEMEANOR OF HYPOCRISY

The conduct and character of a hypocrite makes him easily recognizable. The hypocrite is more concerned with how other men see him rather than the right or wrong of his actions. Again, Jesus said “they love...to be seen of men” (Matt. 6:5). The hypocrite is one whose priorities are not right. His emphasis is on earthly accomplishments and physical achievement. Jesus points to this character of the hypocrites of His day declaring: “Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” (Matt. 15:7-8).

The hypocrite is ever ready to point out the faults and shortcomings of others but never seems to see his own misgivings: “...why beholdest thou the mote [splinter or speck of wood] that is in they brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam [a log on which planks in a house rest; such as a floor joist] that is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:3) The mental picture of such a situation would be humorous were it not so pathetic.

The hypocrite is void of spiritual perception: “Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?” (Luke 12:56) While trained and cultured in matters that pertain to this world, one who is a hypocrite fails to realize such simple spiritual truths as Jesus the Messiah, the church is the kingdom, and the Christian age is the last days.

DESTRUCTION OF HYPOCRISY

As with all sin, hypocrisy destroys the very soul of man. One of the by-products of hypocrisy is hindrance. Certainly the hypocritical life of one hinders him from living the life God desires, but worse still is the fact that the hypocrite hinders those around him from obedience as well. “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: **for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in**” (Matt. 23:13). The picture painted for us is that of a group gathered at the entrance of the kingdom refusing to go in AND cutting off the entrance that others (who do desire to enter) might proceed. Desiring to enter into the kingdom, the influence of the hypocrite hinders the man with a good heart from making the right decision.

Another result of hypocrisy is the weakening effect it has on one’s influence. Paul instructed Titus, “Let no man **despise** thee.” (Titus 2:15) The word despise as used here carries the sense of “disregard.” Titus had been left in Crete to “set things in order that were lacking” (1:5), yet that would be impossible for him to do if those in Crete had no regard for him. How could he affect a change for the better if his influence among his peers was wanting? The hypocrite, though he may deceive himself, is known by everyone else! If one who “professes Christianity” practices worldliness, his influence for good is lost. In no relationship is this effect of hypocrisy more clearly seen than in the parent/child relationship. We constantly tell our children

what they should do, but all too often what they see in our lives by our actions destroys our influence for good. Sadly, the end result is not seen until it is too late – when the child becomes an adult and is no longer under his parent’s authority.

HYPOCRISY IN THE EYES OF GOD

Perhaps the most sobering fact of all should be how God views hypocrisy: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres [whitewashed tombs - NKJV], which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all **uncleanness**” (Matt. 23:27). What a picture! To the eye of humanity a hypocrite is “outwardly beautiful.” He has played his part well. He is an accomplished actor. But to the God of heaven, before whose eyes all things are naked and opened, the hypocrite stands exposed for what he is – filth!

Are you guilty of hypocrisy in your life? Professing to be a Christian are you more concerned with your appearance before man than God; do you place higher priority on worldly matters than spiritual; do you possess worldly wisdom while void of spiritual understanding; do you see the wrong in the life of your neighbor yet fail to see when your own life is in need of attention? There is little that is more damaging to your character and to your influence to bring others to Christ, than the sin that is not—the sin of hypocrisy.

Snatched Out Of The Fire

By: Brett Petrillo

The fire raged with several young girls trapped in the second level dance studio. Doing everything they could to escape, some of the young ladies made their way out to a balcony as smoke and fire billowed out all around them. With the fire department still on their way, several people jumped into action to save the girls. People brought out lad-

ders for the girls to climb down on. Some of the girls simply had to jump down to the people below. In another section of the building, people had climbed onto the roof where they smashed out a window for some other girls to escape. Thankfully, all of the girls survived and only a few had to be treated for minor injuries.

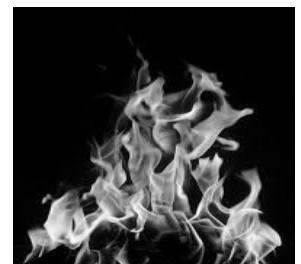
It’s impossible to be ungrateful to people who are willing to risk themselves to save others. Even though the fire department hadn’t arrived yet, certainly they would have done the same to help. Those who jumped into action are truly heroes. They had literally snatched those young ladies out of the fire.

In the church, we have this very same heroic opportunity on a spiritual level. Jude 22-23 says it this way, “And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire...” There are far too many in this life who are being licked by the flames of hell. They are leading their lives down a sad path of spiritual destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). But we have everything we need to snatch them out of the fire. We’ve been given the command to act (Matthew 28:18-20). We’ve been given the saving pattern to follow (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). We’ve been given everything we need to live a life destined for heaven (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). All that we need now are people who are willing to be heroes.

At some point in your life, and mine, someone snatched us out of the fire. To this day we are extremely thankful for the time, prayer, and thought they put towards us. Let’s do the same. Let’s grasp the extreme gravity of this situation. Every day the spiritual temperature is rising as people travel their way towards those eternal flames.

Will you help to snatch them out of the fire?

Will you be a hero?



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 15, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Curtis Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Tom Pitchford
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Mark FitzSimmons
Assist: Richard Tisue; Bryce Dolan; Sammy Scherffius

Sunday Evening: Tom Pitchford; Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Don Lynn
A.M. Closing: Robert Powers
P.M. Opening: Anthony Scherffius
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

Ushers: Steve Randle
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

Sound System: Bryant Siegel

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Steve Randle

Prepare Communion: Sneeringer-Gonzalez

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION:

Please welcome Letty Hernandez who was recently baptized. There are sticker labels to add to your pocket directory in the foyer. Her contact info is:

P.O. Box 7319
VICTORIA, TX 77903
979-563-6320

G.E.M.S. MEETING TODAY:

Girls Encouraging Many Souls is at 3:30 today at the church building. This is a group for girls 8 and up to learn about serving God and moms are always welcome to stay. Today's speaker is Mary Jo White.

F.U.E.L.
YOUTH RALLY
APRIL 20-21
In The World But Not Of The World

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

DELLA RAMPLEY who has been diagnosed with cancer; DIANE AND LORA HARDY family of Doug Jobes uncle Lamar. Lamar is in hospice care; MIKE MCVEY who is in Warms Springs recovering from his recent hospital stay; BILL YOUNG who is at Citizens hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15: Janet Morales will be taking pictures if you would like to update your family photo
April 17: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)
April 20-21: F.U.E.L. Youth Rally; speaker: Todd Clip-pard
April 22: Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal

IN THE AREA

April 21: Riverside Church of Christ (in Corpus Chris-ti) Ladies Day @ 9am
May 6-9: Gospel Meeting @ Port Lavaca; various speakers 7pm nightly
May 5-10: Focal Point @ University (San Marcos)
May 23-28: Young Men's Development Conference @ Bryan-College Station

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Nia FitzSimmons, Sandra Marie (17); Joseph Sheeran, Nikhil Verma (19); Jill Powers, McKinley Jacobs, Anthony Scherffius (20); Nicolette Garcia (21)
Happy Anniversary: Dharmendra & Archana Verma (20)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Sandy Malone
Les Daltry	Ann Pantel
Pat Davis	Glenodine Pitts
Dee Gilpatrick	Bob Smith
Lucille Hawkins	Clark Withers
Faye Henderson	

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Mary Lou Arguelles (sister of Virginia Escojido)	Cole Ohrt (friend of Ann Pantel)
Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Ver-ma)
Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Mary Younglove (grandmother of Naomi Flonnory)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Cynthia Sneeringer (mother of Angela)
Scarlet O'Neill (friend of Yvonne Smith)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
Sarah Randle (mother of Steve)	

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

Deacons:

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobs
Bryant Siegel

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of April 8, 2018

Bible Class.....105
A.M. Worship.....135
P.M. Worship.....114
Wednesday Bible Study.....91

Offering \$4,496

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

Did you know that devoting 30 minutes each day you can read through the New Testament in one month? Here is a schedule to help you get started:

Day 1: Revelation 4-13

Day 2: Revelation 14-22



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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