

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

August 12, 2018

Issue 22

## *SOME FALSE VIEWS OF TRUTH*

*Ronnie Scherffius*

With his Savior standing before him, Pontius Pilate ignorantly and sarcastically inquired, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) The answer to that question is clearly revealed in the Bible. Jesus declared the Word of God is truth (John 17:17) and Paul revealed the gospel by which we are saved is the word of truth (Eph. 1:13). But even those who readily accept these passages often hold false views of truth. We are familiar with some false views of truth and can without hesitation soundly answer them. For example, some suggest that truth is *unknowable* but Jesus declared “Ye **shall know** the truth” (John 8:32) and John wrote, “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because **ye know** it” (1 John 2:20-21). Let us consider three more *modern* views of truth that many falsely hold.

***It is a false view of truth to believe that there is a middle ground between truth and error.*** The Bible is to be viewed and studied reasonably and logically not as some mysterious book that teaches a better felt than told religion. We do not need a holy-man or shaman to interpret it. Yes, the Bible was given by an infinite God to finite man, but it was given in words that man can know and understand. Isaiah wrote, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord” (Isa. 1:18). In Thessalonica, Paul “reasoned with them out of the scriptures” (Acts 17:2). That being said, it is illogical to believe that truth is not absolute, i.e., that there is a middle ground between truth and error!

If a man is wearing a **red** tie, the tie is either red or it is not red. It cannot be a red tie if it is not red and it cannot be any other color or

a combination of colors if it is red! Even so with truth. Something is either truth or it is not truth. Truth cannot be a combination of truth and error. Truth is absolute—there is no middle ground between truth and error!

***It is a false view of truth to believe that man has the right to be wrong about truth.*** Herein lies the fallacy of political correctness. Abortion *rights* advocates aver women have the *right* to choose to put to death the innocent life in her womb. Gay *rights* activists demand that they have the *right* to pervert God’s law of marriage (Gen. 2:21-25; Matt. 19:4-5) and His natural order (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions are false, and the idea that one has the right to be wrong about truth is equally false.

Consider the following, under our constitution I have the right to freedom of speech and the right to bear arms. As much as I have the *right* to these I cannot be condemned by our government for practicing them. To say one has the right to something relieves that person from guilt. If a woman has the *right* to abortion she cannot be condemned for it. If a man has the right to marry someone of the same gender he may do so with impunity. Yet, God has condemned such as sinful — one does not have the *right* to violate God’s law!

Yes, God has given man the free will to choose between right and wrong (Josh. 24:15; Mk. 8:34; Jn. 6:67; Rev. 3:20; 22:17), but we will stand before God and give an answer for all things done in our bodies whether they be good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). At the judgment we will hear either “Come, ye blessed of my father” or “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire” (Mt. 25:34, 41).

No man has the right to be wrong about truth — all are accountable for their lives in light of truth.

***It is a false view of truth to believe that truth cannot be a powerful force in the world today.*** Many believe the gospel (truth) is ineffective; that it is outdated — an ancient book in modern times. Some suggest we need a new hermeneutic (interpretation), a message that is fresh and exciting. Because of this attitude toward the Scriptures some say the truth of the gospel is of no force in the world today.

It must be admitted that many do indeed reject God's law and authority and that the masses are not only indifferent but indeed contentious toward religion. Are we therefore to conclude that the gospel no longer has the power to convict man of sin? Before, during, and immediately after Christ's ministry on earth this same attitude existed in the Roman Empire. Yet, Christians "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4)! They preached Christ and him crucified (1 Cor. 1:23); declared His pre-existence (John 1:1-3); preached His virgin birth (Mt. 1:18-25); affirmed His sinless life (Heb. 4:15); preached His miracles, death, resurrection, and receiving a crown and kingdom (Acts 2:14-36); demanded obedience to all of God's commandments: faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and walking in the light of God ***and*** marked all who caused division as well as withdrawing from them that walked disorderly (Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6). What was the result? "They turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) with the gospel and established churches throughout the Roman Empire!

Ask yourself, "Is the church of the 21st century turning the world upside down?" The truth of the matter is that the church is being turned upside down by the world! WHY? Is it because the gospel has lost its power? Is it because truth cannot be a dynamic force in the world today? Or it is because we have abandoned plain simple powerful gospel preaching for the tomfoolery and innovations of the denominations?!

Jesus said, "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). Yet truth will do no one any good who holds a false view of truth. Truth is absolute — there is no middle ground. No man has the right to be wrong about truth but all will give an answer of how they respond to the truth of God's word. Truth, the word of God, is the most powerful force against our adversary. It is the sword that cuts to the heart and convicts the soul of sin.

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### **Something is Wrong**

Something is wrong with the Christian who will not attend the Sunday evening service. If he thinks he does not need to, something is wrong with his information—he does not know what he needs. If he does not have enough interest to go, something is wrong with his attitude. Indifference was the greatest sin of the church at Laodicea. (Rev. 3:14-17).

If he lets company keep him away, something is wrong with his courage and his perception. He is trying to serve two masters. (Matt. 6:24). If he is too busy to go, something is wrong with his schedule. The person who is too busy to serve God here is too busy to go to heaven.

Just why should not all Christians WANT to be in the Sunday evening service? Why should we not want our children and our friends to be there? If we do not care whether they are present or not, something is seriously wrong with our spirituality. Let each one of us resolve now to correct that which is amiss in our lives and beginning with the time you read this reminder, ask God to forgive our indifference, neglect of duty and carnal ways and once more let all of us strive diligently to be present at the Spiritual Feast EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT.

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**

Week of August 12, 2018

**Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Bryant Siegel  
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

**Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons  
Fruit of the Vine: Will Cleveland  
Offering: Dennis Bryson  
Assist: Bryce Dolan, Curtis Scherffius, Brant Jacobs

**Sunday Evening:** Mark FitzSimmons, Will Cleveland

**Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson  
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Matt Gibson

**Open/Close Building:** Don Lynn

**Sound System:** Don Lynn

**Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

**Prepare Communion:** Dolan Family

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**To Our Visitors:** We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

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**THANK YOU:**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Sunny Glen Children's home. The truck will be here to pick up items this week.

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**SPECIAL NOTE:**

If you would like to add items to the bulletin, please see Nina Siegel or email : office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

LILLIE MAE SHAFER, of the Vanderbilt church of Christ, who has cancer and has been placed on Hospice.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Aug. 12: Jr/Sr. High Youth Devotional hosted by Patrick and Josha Gooch. Boys bring drinks and girls bring dessert.  
Aug. 15: Wednesday Summer Series - Matt Gibson  
Aug. 22: Wednesday Summer Series - Bryant Siegel  
Aug. 29: Wednesday Summer Series - Anthony Scherffius  
Sept. 15: End of Youth Summer Series Awards and Fellowship @ 5:30pm

**IN THE AREA**

Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Southwest C of C  
Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Livingston C of C

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

Happy Birthday: Don Lynn(13); Scarlet Atkinson, Lupe Escojido (14); Marguerite Arnot (15); Emily DeDear (17)

Happy Anniversary: Mike and Julia Atkinson (14)

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**KEEP IN PRAYER**

**MIDTOWN MEMBERS**

Jeff Cannady Della Rampley  
Dee Gilpatrick Clark Withers  
Ann Pantel

**SHUT-INS**

Lucille Hawkins Sandy Malone  
Faye Henderson

**FRIENDS & FAMILY**

Victor Benitez Vikram Gottam  
(brother of Virginia Escojido) (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)  
Kim Neel-Farthing Antonio Benitez  
(daughter of Joyce) (brother of Virginia Escojido)

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 August 5, 2018

Bible Class.....102  
A.M. Worship.....127  
P.M. Worship.....87  
Wednesday Bible Study.....99

Offering      \$5,510

## QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

### False Teachers/Doctrines

Vain Doctrines.....Matt. 15:6-9  
Pervert gospel.....Gal. 1:6-9  
Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Jude 4



### 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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## MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main  
Victoria, TX 77904  
(361) 573-0030  
[midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

