

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

August 19, 2018

Issue 23

## *THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING (I)*

*Ronnie Scherffius*

Few are familiar with the name William Lamartine Thompson. Born in 1847, the youngest of seven children, W.L. Thompson grew to be a man of success as a merchant, manufacturer, banker, and a two-term member of the Ohio state legislature. As a young man, Thompson had interest in music and as a teenager began composing. He soon became an accomplished composer and lyricist and gave most of his attention to writing hymns and gospel songs. Some of Thompson's more well known songs are *Lead Me Gently Home, Father* (1879), *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* (1880), and *Jesus Is All the World to Me* (1904).

Another well known and often sung hymn written by W.L. Thompson is *There's a Great Day Coming* (1887). Writing to admonish the saints "earnestly to contend for the faith" (Jude 3), Jude spoke of a great day that is coming: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto **the judgment of the great day**" (Jude 6). This great day is the day of judgment of which Peter wrote saying, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto **the day of judgment**" (2 Pet. 2:9), and of which Paul instructed the Athenians was both appointed and assured (Acts 17:31). Over the next two weeks we will note six great things that will happen on this day that make it a GREAT day.

**That day will be great because ALL the dead will be resurrected.** On no less than ten occasions in the Bible were the dead resurrected. In the Old Testament we read of Elijah's raising the son of the widow of Za-

rephath (1 Kings 17:8-24), Elisha's raising the son of the Shunamite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37), and a man who came back to life after touching the bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21). In the New Testament we read of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17), the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:40-56), and Lazarus (John 11:1-44). There are also the occasions of Peter raising a disciple named Tabitha (Dorcas) (Acts 9:36-42), and Paul raising Eutycus (Acts 20:7-12). Finally, we read of the saints resurrected at Jesus crucifixion (Matt. 27:50-53), and of course the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which resurrection is the first fruits of the dead guaranteeing our own resurrection (Mt. 28:1-6; 1 Cor. 15:20, 23, et al).

Astounding is the thought of one coming forth from the grave! How much more incredible the reality that all who have ever perished from this earth being resurrected to life never to die again. Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth" (John 5:28-29). Paul also wrote of this day giving great insight to this great day that surely is to come: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede) them which are asleep (dead). For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and *the dead in Christ shall rise first*. Then we which are alive and remain *shall be caught up together with them in the clouds*, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:15-17).

On that great day every soul that has lived upon this earth will come forth from their graves, whether from the earth, burned, waters, or devoured by animals! At the sound of the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God, hades will be emptied and “the dead shall be raised incorruptible (never again to die a physical death), and we (the living) shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52). That is a *GREAT DAY!*

***That Great Day about which we often sing will be great because the population of all the earth will be present.*** Speaking of the great judgment scene Jesus said, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered ***all nations***” (Matt. 25:31-32). Imagine the population of all the earth for all times present at one time — a million million!!! According to records, the current world population growth rate is 1.13%. Population growth peaked in the 1960s (2%). If we begin with Adam and limit our range to the time of Noah, using an average growth rate of 1.5% we find the population of the earth at the time of the global flood 3.84 billion [[metamorphosisalpha.com/ias/population.php](http://metamorphosisalpha.com/ias/population.php)]. Estimating the age of the earth to be 6,000 years and using a population growth rate of .5% (less than half of the current average), the population of souls at the great day of judgment would be no less than 19.7 trillion! Imagine the population of all the earth for all time gathered together in one place. That is a *Great Day!*

There is a great day coming. You and I will be there! Are you ready for that day to come?

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### **“Immediately”**

The astute reader of the book of Mark finds the word 40 times in 39 verses (the Greek word most often translated “immediately” in Mark is actually found 44 times). It is a key word found consistently throughout the gospel but especially in the first six chapters. Usually, the word is used to quantify the time between Jesus performing a miracle and it taking effect. The point seems to be to

show the power and Divine nature of Jesus. It is also a thread that runs throughout the book to highlight key thoughts and main ideas in this second book of the New Testament. The word is used to highlight the Father’s affirmation of Christ following His baptism (1:10), Jesus’ journey into the wilderness to triumph over the Devil’s temptations (1:12), the disciples’ decision to leave their occupation to follow Jesus (1:18,20), Jesus’ entering the synagogue to show unparalleled authority and power (1:21), the news and fame that followed Christ’s teaching and healing (1:28), and the immediate response of the one healed by Jesus—the first of many uses of the word “immediately” to highlight such (1:29-30). The proof for Jesus’ identity was immediate. The effect of Jesus’ miracles was immediate. The impact of Jesus’ miracles and teachings on friend and foe was immediate. Mark’s use of this word seems to indicate how overwhelming and unmistakable the proof of Jesus was.

This is not to say that one should rashly decide about the Lord. The book of Mark is part of God’s way to convince man about who Jesus is. Take the time to read it and learn of Him. Like the other three gospels, Mark contains the miracles, teaching, claims, and events in Christ’s life at the end of which one must ultimately make a decision concerning who He is. Remember, though, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Weigh the evidence, and then decide. Follow the example of so many in the book of Mark and let the power and person of Jesus have an immediate impact on your life and your soul.

By: Neal Pollard

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### Know Your Bible

How long did Jesus remain on earth after his resurrection? Acts 1.

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**

Week of August 19, 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: Tom Pitchford  
P.M. Closing: Jeff Harris

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Bryant Siegel

**Open/Close Building:** Don Lynn

**Sound System:** Don Lynn

**Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

**Prepare Communion:** Dolan Family

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**SPECIAL NOTE:**

New cell phone number for Ronnie Scherffius is  
361-676-1834

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**What God Hath Promised**

God hath not promised skies always blue;  
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through.  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.  
But God hath promised strength for each day,  
Rest for the laborer, light on the way,  
Grace for the trial, help from above;  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

- Selected-

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

BILL YOUNG, who is in Citizens Hospital room 554.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Aug. 22: Wednesday Summer Series - Bryant Siegel  
Aug. 29: Wednesday Summer Series - Anthony Scherffius  
Sept. 4: Salad Luncheon for the Ladies Bible Class @ 11am here are the building  
Sept. 11: Ladies/Mens Bible Classes resume  
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: Raider Stryker, Donna Shannon (19); Pam Archer, Pat Atkinson (20); Janie Martin, Archana Verma, Scott Foerster, Jenna Lynch (22); Jerry FitzSimmons (24)

Happy Anniversary: Willy & Helen Cannady; Doug & Kasi Jobs (22); Jim & Angy Hutt (24)

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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 12, 2018

Bible Class.....100  
A.M. Worship.....130  
P.M. Worship.....96  
Wednesday Bible Study.....114

Offering      \$4,361

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

**Fellowship**

Common/share.....Acts 2:42-44  
Phil. 1:5; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 10:16

**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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