

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

July 15, 2018

Issue 18

## WHAT I OWE THE CHURCH

Ronnie Scherffius

The book of Ephesians is one of the greatest works of Paul on the subject of the church of Christ. He writes of the church as the body of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22-23). He speaks of the church as the temple of the Lord and Jesus as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-21). Paul refers to the church as the family of God that wears the name of its Founder and Head (Eph. 3:14-15). Being in Christ, and therefore in His body (the church) we have hope (2:12), peace (2:14), unity (2:15-16), citizenship in the kingdom of God (2:19) and rights to an inheritance in the household of God (2:19; 3:6). By the church the wisdom of God is made known to the angels (3:10), and in the church God's eternal purposes are fulfilled (3:11)! In his book, *Know Your Bible*, brother Frank Dunn rightly noted, "The Father prepared not only a physical body for His Son to suffer in, but also a spiritual body in which He should be glorified" (p 509). What a blessing and a privilege to be a member of such a glorious body!

Do we ever consider that, as members of the body of Christ, who have been blessed with "all spiritual blessings" (Eph. 1:3), we owe something to the church? And when we fail to fulfill our obligation to the body (of which we are living active members!) the church fails to be to the fullest what it can be. Paul worded it this way, "From whom [**Jesus**] the whole body fitly joined together and compacted [**knit together**] by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). In other words, as every part of the human body fulfills its roll to make the body what it is, even so in the body

of Christ—each member of the body must fulfill his/her share that the body may be to the fullest what it can be!

In similar fashion Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **For the body is not one member, but many**" (1 Cor. 12:12-14). Imagine if a part or parts of your physical body decided not to function properly! At best quality of life would decrease and at worse life would be extinguished! Each member of our physical body owes something to the rest of the body. Now, transfer that same thought to the church. As a member of the blood bought body of Jesus Christ we owe something to the body. Just what do I owe the church?

Apart from the use of our talents and abilities (which differ from person to person) to the fullest, let's note three points in particular that **every member** of the body of Jesus Christ owes to the church.

**I owe the church the example of a good life.** Paul admonished Timothy "**be thou an example** of the believers, in word, in conversation [**conduct**], in charity [**love**], in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). As I live my life from day to day do I strive to set the proper example (before my Christian brethren!) of a godly life? Paul admonished Titus to live after this manner: "In all things **shewing thyself a pattern** of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be

condemned” (Titus 2:7-8). When we consider our lives; could we say as Paul, “be ye followers of me” (1 Cor. 4:16)? Certainly, I owe the members of my family the example of a godly life.

***I owe the church my financial support.***

The local church has regular financial obligations. These obligations must be met and the only way that is possible is through the weekly contribution. “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (1 Cor. 16:1-2). This command, and the principle behind it, applies to the local church to this day. Paul’s reference here is to the need of the church in Jerusalem that he was personally seeking to satisfy, and that was providing for the Jewish Christians who, because of the persecution of their faith, had found themselves wanting for physical necessities (Rom. 15:25-26; 2 Cor. 8:1-4; Gal. 2:10; et al). Giving to support the needy has been a practice of the church from the beginning (Acts 4:34-37; 11:29-30). Even during the ministry of Jesus many gave of their means for support (Mt. 27:55). Paul admonished the Corinthians that a regular collection be taken so that there would be no need of a special collection. What of our weekly giving. Are we financially *supporting* the church or simply throwing money in the collection plate? Is our giving weekly or weakly?

***I owe the church my faithful attendance.***

The very existence of the local congregation is dependent on the faithful attendance of every member of the body! The Hebrews writer admonished the struggling Christians in Judaea, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24). When can this especially be fulfilled? Note the following verse, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). The “day approaching” in the context referred to God’s judgment against Jerusalem that was rapidly approaching, **but** there is an even greater

judgment now approaching and thus a greater need for every member of the body to be faithful in their attendance and provoke their Christian brethren to remain faithful and steadfast! At the very least, we stand obligated to assemble with our brethren that the church might be built up to the fullest.

Ask yourself: “What is my *example* to my brethren?” “Am I truly financially *supporting* the work of the church?” “Am I *faithful* and pleasing to God in my *attendance*?” Jesus Christ died for me that I might have salvation—surely I at least owe Him these.

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**Lost**

By: Brett Petrillo

“It is an old ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way” (Rollo May).

It doesn’t really make sense, but it’s so very true. When we are lost, we tend to run in an attempt to find our way again. Instead, all we do is become more lost with every passing second.

The same is true spiritually. When we get lost in sin, for some reason we lose all sense of direction and run deeper and deeper into our own faults. Many before us have done this very same thing. Consider those who looked to escape from God when they were lost.

Adam and Eve hid themselves after sinning (Genesis 3:8). Cain tried to talk his way out after killing his brother (Genesis 4). Achan hid the treasures he had stolen that rightly belonged to God (Joshua 7). Saul blamed his sin on peer pressure, among other things (1 Samuel 15). David went to great lengths to cover up his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). Jonah literally ran from the Lord (Jonah 1). Certainly many other examples could be mentioned.

We all can stray and become lost (Romans 3:23). Without a doubt, the worst thing we could do is to run faster. The solution isn’t complicated. We need to stop, think about where we are, and find help getting us back on the right road (Matthew 7:13-14).

So many are running around lost. Are you to be found? Stop running. We’re here to help show you to the right road.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 15, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Tom Pitchford  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Lupe Escojido  
Assist: BJ Davis, Scott DeDear, Sammy Scherffius

**Sunday Evening:** Tom Pitchford, Clifton Rutherford

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Don Lynn  
A.M. Closing: Dennis Bryson  
P.M. Opening: Will Cleveland  
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Tom Pitchford

**Open/Close Building:** Cannady Family

**Sound System:** Trenton Jenkins

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

**Prepare Communion:** Pitchford Family

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Today!—There will be a house warming party for Patrick & Josha Gooch at the building after evening worship.

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Sat. July 28th— The Area-Wide Teen Summer Series will be hosted by MidTown @5pm. Please see Doug Jobes if you would like to help with food.

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### MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE:

Jacqueline York - 5312 John Stockbauer, #1037, Victoria, TX 77904, phone: 810-627-6214

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Discipleship University registration deadline is July 20. Please see Ronnie Scherffius for details.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

PATRICIA BENITEZ, sister-in-law of Virginia Escojido, who was hospitalized last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15: Gooch's house warming party at the building  
July 18: Wed. Summer Series—Tom Pitchford  
July 22: 4th Sunday Fellowship meal—bring your favorite potluck dish  
July 25: Wed. Summer Series—Ron White  
July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

## IN THE AREA

July 19: Summer Youth Series @ Weber Rd.  
Aug 5-10: Evidence for Life gospel meeting @ Riverside  
Sept: 15: Ladies' Day @ Southwest C of C

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Clifton Rutherford (17); Dennis Bryson (18)

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Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items: Salad Dressings & Gallon Freezer Bags. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Ann Pantel
Dee Gilpatrick	Della Rampley
Sandra Marie	Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Sandy Malone
Faye Henderson	Bob Smith

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Antonio Benitez (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 July 8, 2018

Bible Class.....88  
A.M. Worship.....116  
P.M. Worship.....90  
Wednesday Bible Study.....108

Offering      \$4,259

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

**Eternity**

Eternal/Everlasting.....Mat. 25:46

Mark 10:29f; Luke 16:22-26; Jude 7

**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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