

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

July 22, 2018

Issue 19

IF THE CHURCH DOES NOT MATTER

Ronnie Scherffius

Premillennial thought is clear. The church is an accident; an institution existing only because the redemptive plan of God hit a snag when the Jews mistakenly rejected their Messiah. Consider the following from some prominent Premillennial writers:

In its doctrine of the Church, Dispensationalism holds that the Jewish rejection of the Kingdom calls Jesus to postpone the kingdom until the Second Advent and to establish the Church as an interlude between the two advents and that the Church was in no sense a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. (LORAIN BOETTNER, *THE MILLENNIUM*, quoted from: *PREMILLENNIALISM, TRUE OR FALSE*, p 90)

The Church is a mere parenthesis, an afterthought in God's program of redemption, a valley invisible to the Old Testament prophets...in dealing with the church, history has left the main highway and is making a detour; and God ignores the flight of time until he deals again with the Jews. Israel is like a scheduled train that has been put on a side track temporarily but will be put on the main track, the main line again, as soon as the unscheduled Gentile-Special has passed through. (Wm. Hendrickson, *And So All Israel Shall Be saved*, p 7,) (WM. HENDRICKSON, *AND SO*

ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED, p 7, quoted from: *PREMILLENNIALISM, TRUE OR FALSE*, p 90)

Note that the church is part of a detour and the time of the church is being ignored by God, but God's true plans for "Israel" will soon reengage as soon as the unscheduled church passes through. Pure blasphemy! According to the unbiblical doctrine of Premillennialism, Jesus failed to finish His work (even though He said, "It is finished" [John 19:30]) and the church, an "interlude" and a "mere parenthesis" and "afterthought," has little or no bearing on God's eternal purpose. In other words, the church does not matter! Perhaps the worldly idea of "choose the church of your choice" is more easily understood (though still repulsive!) when we realize that such a mindset is prevalent among Protestant Denominationalists. But **if** the church does not matter what are the logical consequences?

If the church does not matter the blood of Christ does not matter. It was the blood of Christ that purchased the church: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Peter instructed that the blood of Christ is precious and provides redemption for man (1 Pt. 1:18-19). Paul wrote that by the blood of Christ man is reconciled to God in one body (Eph. 2:13-16). John affirmed that it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:5-7). But if the church does not matter then the purchase price, Christ's blood that redeems, rec-

onciles, and cleanses us also does not matter. Who can believe it?!

If the church does not matter salvation does not matter. By inspiration, Luke wrote, “And the Lord added to the church daily those that were being saved” (Acts 2:47). It seems extraordinary that an institution that is a “mere parenthesis” should be used to identify the saved of God. Paul wrote that the church is the “body of Christ” (Eph. 1:22-23) and that Jesus is the “savior of the body” (Eph. 5:23), but if the church does not matter then the salvation that is located therein should be of little concern to the heart and mind of humanity.

If the church does not matter God’s purposes do not matter. The church was in God’s eternal purpose: “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:10-11). The shedding of Jesus blood on the cross, which blood stood as the ransom for the redeemed and the purchase price for the church was also in the eternal purposes of God. David wrote, “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed” (Psa. 2:1-2). The apostles testified that this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus’ death (Acts 4:24-27) and that it was all according to God’s eternal purposes and divine decree (Acts 4:28). Thus, if the church does not matter God’s plans and purposes should not matter to us today.

Consider finally that the church is also referred to as the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:19; 13:33, 44; 16:19; 23:13; et al), the vineyard of the Lord (Mt. 20:1), and the temple of God (2 Cor. 6:16). But if the church does not matter then the unity we enjoy in the body, the citizenship we have gained in the kingdom, the work we share in the vineyard, and the worship we offer up in the temple are but nothing in the eyes of our Creator. What a blasphemous doctrine indeed!

One should recoil at such a fallacious doctrine as premillennialism and its insistence that the church is but an afterthought in the mind of God, set up as a vestibule to the kingdom that is to come. But in practice, how important is the church in your own life? How engaged in its work are you? How faithful in its assembling are you? How financially vested in its labors are you? If we are not fully committed to the work, worship, and support of the church are we any different in practice than the premillennialist who says, “the church does not matter”?

COUNTING YOUR BLESSINGS

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than seventy-five percent of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top eight percent of the world’s wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

Glad Tidings of Good Things (April 5, 2018)

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 22, 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: Mark FitzSimmons
A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Opening: Jim Hutt
P.M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Ron White

Open/Close Building:

Cannady Family

Sound System:

Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Pitchford Family

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.

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.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

BOB SMITH, who was hospitalized last week; REX HORST, who was admitted to Citizens hospital room 257; DON WALKER, who had surgery this past week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Aug. 11: Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 8am at the building

IN THE AREA

Aug 5-10: Evidence for Life gospel meeting @ Riverside

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Desmon Flonnory, II (22); Mike Atkinson (26); Izzy Scherffius, Kaylee Scherffius, Athena Scherffius (27)

Happy Anniversary: Tam & Pam Archer (28)

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.

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 15, 2018

Bible Class.....118
A.M. Worship.....146
P.M. Worship.....102
Wednesday Bible Study.....91

Offering \$4,599

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Faith (Belief)

Faith = Necessary.....Heb. 11:1, 6
Believe or die in sin.....John 8:24;
Mark 16:16; John 3:16; James 2:17f

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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