

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

June 17, 2018

Issue 14

## **OH BE CAREFUL!** (Part 3)

*Ronnie Scherffius*

### OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR

The past two weeks we have given consideration to one of the most well known of our children's Bible class songs, *Oh Be Careful*. Particularly we have noted the first line of the song, "Oh be careful little eyes what you see" making some very pointed applications to us as adults and the great care we should take to always beware of those things that we allow our eyes to see. The current culture is not careful to set before us explicit images to draw us away from our Lord and Master. Everywhere we turn, television, movies, magazines, the Internet, video games and on we could go, images are flashed before our eyes that brand on our conscience those things pertaining to the world and not to God. As we further consider this song we recall the line "Oh be careful little ears what you hear."

Jesus instructed His apostles, "Take heed what ye hear" (Mark 4:24). Some things simply are not worth hearing. Some things poison the mind. Eve heard a lie "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods" (Gen. 3:4-5). Eve had heard the truth of God and heeded it for a time but when the tempter came she heard and gave attention to a lie. Temptation through which sin entered the world first got man's attention through the ear! Many today hear and know the truth but the tempter persists and the father of lies (John 8:44) has many who continue his work of darkening counsel with spurious speech and disingenuous doctrines. Knowing that God must be worshipped in spirit and in truth, hearing a lie, many are deceived into compromising biblical truths they have faithfully

been taught for years. Certainly we ought to be careful that we do not hear and give heed to a lie.

Rehoboam, the son of Solomon and grandson of David, heard unwise counsel (1 Kings 12:1-11). Everyone needs counsel and guidance from time to time. We face many things in this world that are difficult to overcome and often find ourselves so overwhelmed that we simply cannot see the way out. Unfortunately, many seek counsel that is of the world and not God. While words of counsel may provide a sense of comfort and relief those words do not always provide the correct guidance for our lives. A couple having marital problems may seek counsel and be encouraged to terminate the marriage through divorce. "Happiness," a foolish counselor may say, "is the number one goal in our lives and if you cannot live together in peace and happiness then you should divorce and move on with your life."

Many youth have received foolish counsel from friends who have directed them to cheat on homework or tests, attend school dances, or go to the weekend parties because, "Everyone is doing it." Even some parents provide foolish counsel to their children by placing greater emphasis on worldly affairs rather than instructing them that the most important things in this world is that which prepares them for the world to come.

Ancient Israel not only heard false words but they desired to hear them, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jer. 5:30-31) We ought to desire

good words—words which bring us closer to God and provide us with a deeper understanding of heavenly matters.

The challenge for our man today is that so many things are said in the world designed to draw us away from God! Paul spoke of those who would speak “perverse things, to draw away” the faithful (Acts 20:28) as well many who would “not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Tim. 4:2-3). Our world is bombarded with humanistic and atheistic philosophies and evolutionary dogma. In public schools, in the media, and among their peers our youth are inundated with what is accepted in culture as alternative lifestyles, freedom of choice, and the freedom of expression. In truth, these are avenues used by the adversary to poison the hearts and minds of innocence.

Poison can enter the heart and mind as well as the blood stream. Many minds are destroyed from the venom of worldly words by listening to music with lyrics that entice them to worldly living, or by giving heed to the appealing tones of worldly compromise through television and the movie screen. The destructive effects to our spiritual wellbeing from lies, false teaching, unwise counsel and worldly wisdom will not simply bring defeat to one in their physical lives, it will also overthrow one’s faith! Surely we should be careful what we hear!

We also ought to be careful how we hear: “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have” (Luke 8:18). Hearing the soul saving gospel of Christ we should hear with an honest and open heart not preconceived ideas, prejudiced minds, or an attitude that we cannot learn or already know enough. When we have the opportunity to hear spiritual instruction we should clear our minds of other things as best we can and focus on what is being said.

Many allow themselves to become distracted. One would not be surprised to see a child passing notes while the preacher is in the pulpit or perhaps a teenager texting on his

cell phone during the sermon, but it is greatly disheartening when adults talk back and forth, pass notes, or even pull out their cell phones giving interest to trivial matters instead of giving heed to exhortations from God. An ear disinterested in spiritual words will find itself an audience to that which tears down rather than builds up!

We will conclude our study next week .

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### **Matthew 18:26 – An Unpayable Debt**

By: Wayne Jackson

In one of his parables, Jesus told of a certain king, who, examining his financial records, discovered a debtor who owed him the staggering sum of ten thousand talents (Matthew 18:24). According to the footnote in the ASV, a talent was worth about \$1,000, hence, this servant was in debt to the tune of \$10 million. When the servant was called to account for the debt, he promised: “Have patience with me, and I will pay all that I owe.” Was his pledge realistic? In the margin of your Bible, beside Matthew 18:26, write: **See Matthew 20:2**. There, we learn that the daily wage of a working man in Palestine was “a shilling” — about 17 cents (see 18:28 — ASV fn).

Now, how long would it take to pay off a debt of \$10 million, at the rate of 17 cents per day (assuming that one used his entire income with nothing subtracted for rent, chariot payments, etc.)? It would take about **two hundred thousand years** to liquidate the debt! Add this notation to your margin.

In this parable the king represents God and the indebted servant pictures each of us in the state of sin. We **never** would be able, by our own meritorious labor, to work off the sin-debt to our Creator. Happily, the parable teaches us that the king **forgave** that servant (cf. Ephesians 2:8,9).

This portion of the parable is designed to emphasize our utter helplessness before God. We must not, however, push the parable beyond its intended design and assume that forgiveness is unconditional. That assumption would contradict scores of clear Bible passages (cf. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Hebrews 5:8,9). Whereas forgiveness is freely extended by our loving God, it must be obediently accepted by the contrite sinner.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 17, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

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

Bread: Doug Jobes  
Fruit of the Vine: Dennis Bryson  
Offering: Bryant Siegel  
Assist: Richard Tisue, Bryce Dolan, Curtis Scherffius

**Sunday Evening:** Doug Jobes, Dennis Bryson

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Mark FitzSimmons  
A.M. Closing: Robert Powers  
P.M. Opening: Jim Hutt  
P.M. Closing: Tom Pitchford

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Patrick Hammack

**Open/Close Building:** Jobes Family

**Sound System:** Scott DeDear

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Christian Sneeringer

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Singing for all ages at the home of the Pitchford's on Friday, June 22nd at 6:30p.m.  
Weather permitting, it will be outdoors and sing 'til the sun goes down. Please bring lawn chairs.

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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.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

DON WALKER, who has been ill.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20: Wed. summer series—speaker Patrick Hammack

June 24: 4th Sunday Evening Fellowship meal—Please bring your favorite potluck dish.

June 27: Wed. summer series—speaker Will Cleveland

July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

## IN THE AREA

June 21: Summer Youth Series @ Mathis

June 28: Summer Youth Series @ Odem

July 12: Summer Youth Series @ Portland

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Ronnie Scherffius, James Cammock (17); Rosalba Barton (18); Emily Cammock (20)

Happy Anniversary: Scott & Rosalba Barton (21)

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

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

### SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Glenodine Pitts
Faye Henderson	Bob Smith
Sandy Malone	

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

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

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 June 10, 2018

Bible Class.....128  
A.M. Worship.....155  
P.M. Worship.....112  
Wednesday Bible Study.....104

Offering      \$4,590

## QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

### Creation

In the beginning.....Gen. 1:1  
Col. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:45; Rev. 4:11



### 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)

