

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

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Issue 12

OH BE CAREFUL!

Ronnie Scherffius

We often sing a song with our children, “Oh Be Careful Little Eyes” It’s a fun song for the children but the lessons taught are very serious and should be considered not only by youth but adults as well.

OH BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:15-16).

One avenue through which our adversary seeks the advantage of our souls is through the *lust of the eyes* — those things we see often serve as great temptations. We must ever be aware of those things which we place before us. The old adage, “a picture is worth a thousand words” holds a world of truth when one considers the temptations of the world. Once an image is in the database of the mind, it is not easily removed!

As Christians, we should turn our eyes away from those things that could ultimately bring destruction to our souls by leading us out of the light and into darkness. Recall that before eating of that which was forbidden, Eve first “saw that the tree was good for food” (Gen. 3:6). Consider also that before Lot actually pitched his tent toward Sodom, he “lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan” (Gen. 13:10). As we begin this study, let’s consider some things that could put us in serious jeopardy.

Media violence is extremely prevalent in modern society. A sense of urgency and seriousness should be provoked by the alarms sounding for various corners. Six prominent medical groups: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Psychiatric Association have all spoken out sounding the alarm of media violence and its affects on American society (especially our youth!).

What are our children watching on television? According to the National Institute on Media and the Family, by the age of 18 the average youth will view on television 200,000 acts of violence including 40,000 murders [aproundtable.org/tps30info/violententertainment.html]. In 2005, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that children, ages 8 to 18, spend more time in front of a computer, television, and game screens than any other activity except sleeping (44.5 hours/week- 6.5 hours/day).

The importance of this is emphasized in the book, *Media Violence and the American Public Revisited* (Anderson & Bushman, 2001) which states, “Children are affected at any age, but young children are most vulnerable to the effects of media violence.” The 2000 study conducted by the Congressional Public Health Summit, suggests that young children are more easily impressionable; have a harder time distinguishing between fantasy and reality; cannot easily discern motives for violence; and learn most by observing and imitating.

Further, one of the most popular activities among teens, especially teen boys, is video

gaming. One study on media violence reported that “Violent video games can cause people to have more aggressive thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; and decrease empathetic helpful behaviors with peers” (Anderson, 2004).

What are some of the end results of youth and adults seeing things they ought not? Again, the Congressional Public Health Summit reported the following as possible consequences: increase antisocial and aggressive behavior; less sensitivity to violence and for those who suffer from violence; view the world as violent and mean, becoming more fearful of being a victim of violence; desire to see more violence in entertainment and real life; viewing violence as an acceptable way to settle conflicts. (Congressional Public Health Summit, 2000)

Pornography is also a great blight on humanity. There is little that is more destructive to one’s life than the immorality that goes with pornography! One may not be surprised that adults view pornography but youth are viewing pornography at an alarming rate! Studies reveal the average teen spends three to four hours per day watching television and 83% of the programming most frequently watched by adolescents contains some sexual content. The Internet is the number one source of pornography for youth: 70% of 15-17 year olds indicated they accidentally viewed pornography on line; 9 out of 10 children ages 8 to 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet (in most cases unintentionally); the average age of first exposure to Internet pornography is 11; perhaps most alarming is that the largest consumer of Internet pornography, ages 12-17!

Of course, adults are not immune to pornography. In fact, 1 in 4 (25% of those surveyed) American adults surveyed in 2002 admitted to viewing pornography. (National Opinion Research Letter). In May 2004, Business Week printed the results of a ComScore Networks survey. The results are sobering: 44% of U.S. workers with an internet access admitted to accessing an adult-website at work; 40% of home users surveyed and 59%

of University students acknowledged they view porn online!

In November 2003, the Barna Research Group released a study that might help us understand why turning the tide against pornography is so difficult. According the study, 4 in 10 adults believe it is “morally acceptable” to look at pictures of nudity or explicit sexual behavior. Still, one might argue, “This is only among those in the world; certainly such would never be prevalent among Christians.”

Next week will continue our study with more eye opening statistics as well as some thoughts from the Bible.

What Will I Do Tomorrow?

I’ve often heard it said, “Wait until tomorrow.” For believers to make such a statement might be considered somewhat presumptuous. But even if we don’t know what tomorrow holds it’s still a good idea to have a plan. With that in mind I offer the following acronym to answer our question, “What will I do TOMORROW?”

T – I will be THANKFUL for my many blessings (Philippians 4:6)

O – I will take advantage of OPPORTUNITIES to serve God (Galatians 6:10)

M – I will MEDITATE on God’s Word (Psalm 1:2)

O – I will OBLIGATE a portion of my monetary gain to the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:7)

R – I will RESPECT those in authority (1 Peter 2:13)

R – I will have a good RAPPORT with everyone (Hebrews 13:1)

O – I will possess an OPTIMISTIC attitude (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

W – I will WAIT on the Lord and look for His coming (Luke 12:37)

Let us all strive to be better servants of our Lord Jesus Christ tomorrow than we are today.

- Jay Launius

From The Messenger, Maud Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, January 14, 2018

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 3, 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: Will Cleveland
A.M. Closing: Tom Pitchford
P.M. Opening: Ron White
P.M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Daniel Garza

Open/Close Building: Jobes Family

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Christian Sneeringer

Today! Don Walker kicks off our Wednesday Summer Series. The Theme this year is "The Denomination Risen Up Among Us". A schedule of the Wednesday Summer Series may be picked up in the foyer.

HOW TO BUILD THE CHURCH HERE:

Be at every service on time, and bring someone with you. Take an active part in the classes, singing, and other details of the work. Look up in faith to God knowing all will be well if you will do your part. Volunteer your services for everything you can do, and encourage the others who are trying to help. Live the best life you can and others will want to come to church with you... We will grow!

From The Shield, Hayward Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, Joe Gilmore, Jr, May 24, 1959

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

STEVE RANDLE, on the passing of his brother, Cecil, last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3: Don Walker kicks off Midtown's Summer Series

June 3: 55+ group meeting at 3:30 pm @ the building

June 6: Wednesday Summer Series—Daniel Garza

June 9: Combined young kids & Jr/Sr High Devo @ the building @ 5:30pm; boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts

July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

IN THE AREA

June 7: Summer Youth Series @ 7pm—Riverside

June 21: Summer Youth Series @ 7pm—Mathis

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Dylan Herring, Janice FitzSimmons (3); Draven Garcia (8)

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)
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Kim Neel-Farthing
(daughter of Joyce)

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 May 27, 2018

Bible Class.....129
A.M. Worship.....160
P.M. Worship.....98
Wednesday Bible Study.....87

Offering \$4,365

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Church

Christ promised itMat. 16:18
Established.....Acts 2
Savior/Head.....Eph. 5:22-32
Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22f, Col. 1:18,24

**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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