



# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

November 4, 2018

Issue 34

## *FOLLOW THE TRUE COMPASS*

*Ronnie Scherffius*

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)

A man entered a forest so thickly covered with trees and brush that he could see neither the sun nor sky. After traveling deep into the darkness he knew the day was drawing to a close and it soon would be night. He began for what he thought was how he entered into the forest. So certain was he his directions that he consciously chose not look at his compass.

After a great distance he stopped to rest and decided to look at his compass; he was surprised to find that his compass was faulty—it was showing he was traveling west even though he was actually traveling east. Doubting his compass, he cast it aside and pressed on to the clearing that led to his truck. After walking for a much longer period of time than he should have, he began to realize that he had lost his direction and did not know which way to turn. To make matters worse, the darkness of night had completely overtaken him and the batteries in his flash light were quickly losing power. Traveling further and further into the forest he became frustrated and disoriented; he soon realized that he was walking in circles. Everything he had ever learned about direction he began to question.

His fortunes, however, took a turn for the better when, once again he came upon his compass. The old true friend that had never once failed him and that had led him through unknown territory for many years! With feelings of both shameful guilt and thankful relief he opened the compass and

followed its direction without question. In only a matter of minutes he walked out of the thick forest and within the hour was on his way home.

Arriving at his house he emptied his pockets putting all of his affects where he generally stored them. His compass, as was his common practice, he placed in a box with other items that had been given to his father many years ago. As he closed the box he recalled the words of his father when he passed on to him the compass, “Son, this compass will never lead you in the wrong direction; never doubt its accuracy; follow it without fear; you will never be lost.”

We have been given a spiritual compass by our heavenly Father. This compass will always lead us in the right paths; it is the all inspired written Word of God—the Bible. Jeremiah wrote “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). Man walking without and in opposition to the Word of God walks continually in the darkness of sin; lost and without hope in this world. Seeking to discover the right ways man looks to his own wisdom only to discover in the end that his choices are leading him further away from the pathway of right. Solomon wrote: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

If humanity would simply follow God’s divine compass faithfully, even when he supposes that his wisdom and direction is sure, he would ever find his way home. Some, however, have assumed that their wisdom is greater and their words more sure. Solomon in-

structed his son, "Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths" (Prov. 4:10-11). May we ever give to the wisdom of the wise man and follow the words of our Father. His way is righteousness. He will never fail us. We can follow Him without fear. We will never lose our way.

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### **"Terrific and Terrible Twos"**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus enumerated several pairs of things a man always has had a choice in but the outcome is always the same: eternal reward or eternal punishment. Look at these sets of twos in Matthew 6 & 7:

**(6:19-21) There are 2 Treasures:** Some have lived their life where their confidence is found completely in their bank account. Heaven is the place where treasures should be stored (Mark 8:36). "What's my spiritual bank balance?"

**(6:22-23) There are 2 Lamps:** The human eye has no light in and of itself. The only light that a person can perceive is the light that the eye filters into the body. If darkness IS the light, then the darkness one walks around in will know no bounds! "What am I filtering into my body through my eyes?"

**(6:24) There are 2 Masters:** If a Christian continually chooses to serve the treasures (mammon) of this world, there comes the inevitable consequence of hating (loving less) the things of God (I John 2:15-17). "Where is my loyalty?"

**(7:13-14) There are 2 Gates:** The broad way is easy, well paved and requires no effort at all. Jesus says the narrow way is difficult and there are few who find it. "What will I give up in order to enter by the narrow gate" (I Peter 4:1-5)?

**(7:17-20) There are 2 Trees & 2 Fruits:** What is produced by a person's life and compared it to the standard of the word of God? "Am I willing and able to see things for what they are when compared to the word of God?"

**(7:24-26) There are 2 Hearers:** The wise heard and did and the foolish heard and did not do. One set to work based upon what he heard, while the other heard and failed to act. "I hear the message of Jesus, how do I respond?"

**(7:24-27) There are 2 Foundations:** The storms come to both the wise man and the foolish man. The foundations are the only difference between the house that stands firm and the house that falls. "I've faced the storms of life – how has my foundation held up?" May God grant that all men be able to say: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand!

*The Messenger, Maud Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, March 26, 2017.*

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### **A Fruit—Bearing Branch**

Have you ever seen an old dried up branch on a good fruit tree? Did it appeal to you? Why not? What finally happened to the branch that didn't bear fruit?

The answers to these questions will help us understand how much Christ depends on us to bear fruit for Him. The very sight of a withered branch on a live tree is repulsive to all of us. One reason for our disgust is that we know a dead branch won't bear fruit.

We need to bear fruit for Christ. He is the vine; we are the branches. If we are not teaching His word, praying, singing, helping our fellowman, giving money, engaging in good works, we are not bearing fruit for Him.

-Selected-

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 4, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

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

Bread: Lupe Escojido  
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes  
Offering: Don Lynn  
Assist: Scott DeDear, Isaac Jobes, Brant Jacobs

**Sunday Evening:** Lupe Escojido, Doug Jobes

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson  
P.M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

### **Ushers:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Wednesday Devotional:**

Bryant Siegel

### **Open/Close Building:**

Steve Randle

### **Sound System:**

Bryant Siegel

### **Greeters:**

Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Melissa Cannady

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We are planning ahead for our Southwest Lectureship that the MidTown congregation will be hosting in February 2019. If you would like to host a student, please see Ronnie Scherffius.

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**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.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

LES DALTRY, who is recovering at home.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4: Combined Jr/Sr and Forever Young group devotional at the building  
Nov. 6: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am  
Nov. 13: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am  
Nov. 20: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am  
Nov. 27: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am

## AREA EVENTS

Schertz Lectureship Nov. 11-14, 2018

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Mike McVey (3); Marva Hill (6); Jim Hutt, Ben Jamison(9)

Happy Anniversary: Darryl & Sherry Lynch (9)

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady Della Rampley  
Dee Gilpatrick Clark Withers  
Ann Pantel

### SHUT-INS

Faye Henderson Sandy Malone

### 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

**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 October 28, 2018

Bible Class.....104  
A.M. Worship.....132  
P.M. Worship.....115  
Wednesday Bible Study.....78

Offering      \$4,351

## QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

### Immortality

Works of flesh.....Gal. 5:19-21  
Gen. 6:5-6; Isa. 5:20, Rom. 1:29-32



## 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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