

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

September 9, 2018

Issue 26

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS (II)

Ronnie Scherffius

Some of the most important and often overlooked workers in the Lord's church are those men and women who tirelessly labor to teach us the word of God. Last week we emphasized the importance of Bible class teachers by noting two things that are involved in teaching a Bible class. First, a Bible class teacher is one who is prepared. They have prepared themselves by seeking and doing the will of God, and they prepare their students to do the same. (Ezra 7:10) Secondly we highlighted the fact that Bible class teachers teach the most important things man can come to know — the good knowledge of the Lord (1 Sam. 12:23). Let's note two other great things about Bible class teachers.

**Bible class teachers teach for great reasons.** People are motivated to action for various reasons. Take for example athletes; some are motivated by fame, some by money, and others by their competitive nature. Bible class teachers are motivated by none of these — they are compelled by motives far surpassing such worldly incentives. *Bible class teachers teach because God commanded it.* “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt. 28:18-20); “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

*Bible class teachers teach because they love the truth.* David wrote, “I **love** thy testimonies” (Ps. 119:119); “I **love** thy commandments above gold” (Ps. 119:127); “Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth **in awe of thy word.** I **rejoice at thy word,** as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but **thy law do I love.** Seven times a day do I praise thee **because of thy righteous judgments.** Great peace have they which **love thy law:** and nothing shall offend them. Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and **I love them exceedingly**” (Ps. 119:161-167). Jesus rebuked the Ephesian church, not for their lack of work or compromise with error, but “because thou hast left thy first love” (Rev. 2:4). The Ephesians were serving Christ merely from a sense of duty; they were going through the motions without the proper motivation — a love of the truth! Bible class teachers are motivated to teach out of a pure love for the truth!

*Bible class teachers teach because they love the souls of men.* Paul wrote, “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Rm. 9:1-3). Love for their students compels the Bible class teacher to make great sacrifices to teach and prepare the souls of their students. Bible class teachers teach for great reasons!

**Bible class teachers are in great company.** As Bible class teachers, one may wrong-

fully assume that she plays a minor role in the work of the local church. Some may have even convinced themselves that their work is not as important as the preacher who stands each week before the congregation heralding the message of the cross, but just consider some of the ancients who were teachers of the Bible: Moses was a teacher (Dt. 4:14); Samuel was a teacher (1 Sam. 12:23); Ezra was a teacher (Ezra 7:10); the twelve were teachers (Mark 6:30); Paul was a teacher (Acts 18:11; 1 Tim. 2:7); Barnabas was a teacher (Acts 13:1); Timothy was a teacher (1 Cor. 4:17); Jesus himself was a teacher (Matt. 4:23; 11:1; Mark 10:1)! If you are “Just a Bible class teacher” you are in very great company!

Solomon wrote, “I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths” (Prov. 4:11) — what a great epithet for a Bible class teacher! Bible class teachers are those men and women who have devoted themselves to be seed planters, foundation layers, and soul winners. They prepare themselves that they may help others be prepared for the world to come. No, Bible class teachers do not get the attention and praise they deserve, but that is not what motivates them! Their names are not on the church sign, in the Sunday bulletin, or on the church website BUT their names will be found in the Lamb’s book of life, for their work is worthy of praise far exceeding that which any man can give. How thankful we should be for our Bible class teachers!

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### No Choice

There are few things in life that one just has to do. A person, if he is going to live must eat food, drink liquids and breathe air. Still, he can choose not to take care of himself properly. Most things fall under the category of the right to choose. “I must go to work tomorrow,” one might say, yet, it’s not that he has to go but that he chooses to go. He chooses to go because he doesn’t like the consequences that will follow if he does not. This is true of so many different scenarios. A teenager may insist he has to go to school, but actually he chooses to go because he knows the negative outcome of not going (truant officers, angry parents, falling grades, etc.). A young man is drafted into the service. He says he has no choice but to show up for basic training. However, he can choose not to go. It may mean arrest and incarceration, but he does have the ability to say,

“I’m not going.” Again, most things in life boil down to choice. Some things, though, are “no choice” matters. These things tend to fall under the category of the spiritual or eternal. They are things that no matter how desperately we might desire to bypass them there is no possible way. There is no where to run or to hide. Consider some matters regarding which we have no choice...

#### **There is no choice regarding death.**

“... It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). As one reads the first book of the Bible, particularly the fifth chapter, there is a statement found 8 times in the chapter: “and he died” (Gen. 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, and 31). Any of us, at any time, can say, “There is but a step between me and death” (1 Sam. 20:3). Unless the Lord should come first, we are all headed for the way of no return (Job 10:21, 16:22).

#### **There is no choice regarding resurrection.**

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29).

The words of Jesus remind us that in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trump there will be a raising of the dead, a great change from the physical to the spiritual (1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2; Phi. 3:20-21). No one will miss this.

#### **There is no choice regarding judgment.**

As we noted from Hebrews 9:27, we die and “after this the judgment.” All of us will appear for the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10). Therefore, because of the terror of the Lord, we should make it our aim to please Him always (2 Cor. 5:9, 11). There are a number of events we can choose to bypass or ignore (weddings, birthdays, graduations, elections, etc.). In life there are so many things out of which we may bow. The judgment, however, is not in the same category. Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God (Rom. 14:12). Each of us will bow the knee and confess with the tongue the Lord Jesus to the glory of God (Phi. 2:9-11).

#### **There is no choice regarding dwelling somewhere eternally.**

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus speaks of the great judgment scene where all the nations will be gathered before Him. His sheep (faithful followers) will be on his right and the goats (unfaithful, disbelievers) will be on his left. The faithful, those who selflessly cared for their brethren while serving the Lord, will be ushered into everlasting life. The goats, those who did not faithfully serve the Lord and others, will be ushered into everlasting punishment. All of us will dwell eternally somewhere. There is no getting around it.

*By: Bill Burk; The Defender, Mt. Vernon Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, August 6, 2017.*

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of September 9, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

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

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

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

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Will Cleveland  
P.M. Closing: Ron White

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Bryce Dolan

**Open/Close Building:** Will Burleson

**Sound System:** Michael Page

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Kelly Cannady

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Saturday, September 15 is the Youth Summer Series Awards and Fellowship at 5:30pm at the building. There will be a cook out and ice cream social. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

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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.

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### SPECIAL NOTE:

New address for Peggy Matlock is  
803 Hybiscus, Victoria, TX 77904

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

BILL YOUNG, who has medical problems; JEFF LAWS, who is recovering from brain surgery in San Antonio; Dennis Bryson who had a kidney stone procedure last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9: Jr./Sr. high devo at the Scherffius home  
Sept. 11: Ladies/Mens Bible Classes resume  
Sept. 15: End of Youth Summer Series Awards and Fellowship @ 5:30pm  
Sept. 18: Ladies/Mens Bible Classes  
Sept. 25: Ladies/Mens Bible Classes

## IN THE AREA

Sept. 11: Preachers' and Men's Lunch @ Weber Road  
Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Southwest C of C  
Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Livingston C of C  
Sept. 29: Ladies' Day @ Portland C of C

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Herb Ramsey (9); Cooper Siegel (11)

Happy Anniversary: Curtis & Ann Pantel (9)

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Ann Pantel
Virginia Escojido	Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick	Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Sandy Malone
Faye Henderson	

### 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 September 2, 2018

Bible Class.....119  
A.M. Worship.....150  
P.M. Worship.....89  
Wednesday Bible Study.....104

Offering      \$4,206

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

**Godly Living**

Deny evil/be godly.....Titus 2:11-14  
Godly, holy life.....Rom. 12:1-2  
1 Pet. 1:13f, 2 Pet. 1:3, 5-11; 3:18

**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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