

Youth NEWS

The next Jr./Sr. High Devo will be on Sunday, February 11 following evening services.



Young Ladies' Day

University church of Christ in San Marcos invites middle school and high school aged girls to a Young Ladies' Day entitled, "We are Family!" on February 23-24. See Athena Scherffius for details.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, February 4 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "What Lack I Yet?" The rich young ruler wanted eternal life but lacked a necessary quality to please God would have him. Others today lack necessary qualities to please the Lord. While God's grace saves, God expects His people to do His will.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

ELDERS

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

DEACONS

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobes
Bryant Siegel

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand
John Moore
Bible Land Passages
Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND
INFORMATION
FOR MID-
TOWN
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS

The MidTown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

JANUARY 28, 2018

"SETTING IN ORDER THINGS THAT ARE WANTING"

by Ronnie Scherffius

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest *set in order the things that are wanting*, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:" (Titus 1:5)

Paul left Timothy on the island Crete for the primary purpose of setting in order those things in the church that were wanting or lacking. In other words, there were some things that yet remained to be fully arranged so that the church might be organized according to God's desire. The appointment of elders is mentioned specifically as one of those things wanting in the churches on the island of Crete. And the need for elders in the churches there is clearly seen—there were those who contradicted/opposed the truth (Titus 1:9), there were those teaching error so powerfully that even whole families were being turned away (Titus 1:10). The error and progress of these false teachers had to be stopped, and that could only be accomplished through opposition the of men who were "holding fast the faithful word" and who were capable of exposing their error (Titus 1:9). The work of elders as shepherds protecting the flock of God is especially emphasized here, as is the fact that without the church being "in order" according to God's pattern leaves that congregation open to many problems.

Yet, the appointment of elders was not the only matter that Titus was to address in order that the Cretan churches might be "set in or-

der." Paul identified specific areas that Titus was to address that "become," or "are proper for," or literally *that stand out as* "sound doctrine." In this way, with all Christians living according to sound doctrine, the church would not be lacking but fully set in order—working and worshipping according to God's good pleasure. Just as the churches were lacking if elders were not overseeing the flock, churches were lacking if members were not living according to sound doctrine!

Brethren, are there things wanting in the church at MidTown, not because we do not have an eldership, for great diligence has been given to the appointment of elders and we are fully organized according to God's pattern with both elders and deacons! But are there things wanting because we, as members of the church are falling short in patterning our lives after the sound doctrine that Titus instructed those Christians in the first century? Let's note these apostolic admonitions of Paul and each seek to apply sound doctrine to their own lives.

First, the lives of the older men of the church should be characterized as "sober (vigilant), grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity (love), in patience" (Titus 2:2). It should be emphasized just here that older men should not refuse to receive instruction from another simply because the teacher is younger, *if* the teaching is sound and wholesome (cf. Titus 2:14; 1 Tim. 4:12).

Paul instructs Titus that the the older men should conduct dignified lives exercising self-control and avoiding excesses; watchful of themselves and others. They should be men noted for the soundness of their faith, their love for Christ, His word, His church, and for others, and they should be men who demonstrate a patient-continuance, a hopeful-steadfastness in the face of even the greatest trials and sufferings.

Second, of the older women of the church Paul instructs: “*that they* be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things” (Titus 2:3). The older women of the church are to be noted as women who live in a holy and reverent manner, not for their slanderous speech (which speech is most definitely found among those who spend their time hearing and spreading gossip and lies!). They are not to be women given to or enslaved to alcohol, thus not women of excesses, but rather they are to be women who teach good things—not in word only but also in deed.

Paul next instructs Titus regarding the younger women (who are best taught by the older women): “to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home (literally: a keeper or guardian of the home), good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:4-5). The emphasis of Paul’s words is that the single priority of the younger women is to be focused on being a wife, mother, and homemaker. While this does not set well in a society of women’s liberation, women’s rights, and elevated roles for women in the church, these are nonetheless the words of the inspired apostle! There is no gain to the Lord’s church when the love, industry, and zeal, which should be used to build up the home, are spent on something else. And the local church is not properly set in order when the home is left unkept and unguarded by women who seek satisfaction and fulfillment in worldly endeavors.

Finally, the younger men are admonished to be “sober minded” (Titus 2:6), i.e., to be sensi-

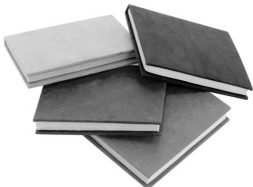
ble or to “live life with their passions in control.” The lives of young Christian men should not be characterized as “sowing wild oats,” or “throwing caution to the wind” but rather sowing righteousness and seeking God (Hos. 10:12). They should look to the lives of the older men as a pattern to follow.

As the church, we ought to take these personal admonitions just as seriously as instructions regarding the eldership! We have special classes, bring in guest speakers, and appoint search committees to find/appoint elders, BUT will we be as diligent to conduct our lives in the manner instructed by Paul? Brethren, until we all bring ourselves under the full instruction of the apostle the local church will be wanting! Let us all take to heart the teaching of inspiration and properly conduct our lives that we may be, as the church, what God would have us to be!

Records You Helped Make For the Week of JANUARY 21, 2018	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	103
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	142
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	100
Wednesday Attendance.....	104
Offering: \$4,192	

2018 POCKET DIRECTORY

- The 2018 MidTown pocket directories available in the foyer. Two copies per family, please.
- If you have changes to your contact information, you may email nia_fitzsimmons@yahoo.com to have a label made.



News

& ACTIVITIES

Today!

Ronnie will answer the following bible questions this evening:

- Luke 21 — Jesus tells of the coming vengeance of God. Verse 27 has always been confusing to me because it sounds so near what will take place at the second coming. Can you make clear the meaning of Jesus coming “in a cloud”?
- Luke 22:31-32 — Footnote in my Bible (v. 31) says the Greek word for you is plural; in verse 32 all four instances (you/your) are singular. Can you comment on this please? This would imply that Satan asked to sift all of them
- During the book of Daniel where was Daniel during the fiery furnace (Dan. 3) and were was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego during the lion’s den (Dan. 6)
- What is the “Gift of the Holy Spirit” noted in Acts 2:38?

Wednesday, January 31

There will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing.

- Sunny Glen Children’s Home is requesting picante sauce and sandwich bags. Please place these items in the boxes in the hallway.

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Steve Randle** in prayer who responded Sunday. **Barbie Dolan** came forward Sunday evening requesting prayers.

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Lucille Hawkins
Faye Henderson

Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Bob Smith
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Mary Lou Arguelles
sister of Virginia Escojido
Buster Bailey
former MidTown
Victor Benitez
brother of Virginia Escojido
Kim Neel-Farthing
daughter of Joyce
Susie Mesa
former MidTown

Scarlet O’Neill
friend of Yvonne Smith
Sarah Randle
mother of Steve
Cole Ohrt
friend of Ann Pantel
Harish Reddy
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Cynthia Sneeringer
mother of Angela
James Tipton
father of Randy Tipton