

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

April 14, 2019

Issue 15

The One Church

Ronnie Scherffius

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build **my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Mt. 16:18)

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to **the church** daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:47)

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church**, which is **his body**, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.” (Eph. 1:22-23)

“But now are they many members, yet but **one body**.” (1 Cor. 12:20)

It is rarely discussed by members of the church. When it is discussed the tone is almost apologetic. At times it appears that members of the church are afraid of offending someone’s sensibilities. On occasion it even seems they are embarrassed to admit the truth. Why do we try so hard to avoid or deflect the discussion of the one church? Are we embarrassed? Are we afraid? Are we ashamed? Does it offend *us* that our Lord Jesus died for only one church? Are we embarrassed by the fact that Jesus is the Head of only one body? Are we shocked that He has but one bride?

There are many religious groups who identify themselves as *part* of the *Christian church*. Each group professes to be a *part* of *the body*

of Christ. And yet each group is organized distinctly, worships uniquely, accepts and/or defines morality differently, and each has their own creed of authority. Are these *churches* legitimate? Do they have the scriptural right to exist or are they institutions of men founded on the traditions and doctrines of men with no scriptural or divine authority? Let us note the above Scriptures and ask some simple questions.

First, Paul wrote: “But now are they many members, yet but **one body**” (1 Cor. 12:20). Protestant denominations suggest they are part of the larger Christian *community*. And that the *many members* refers to the many religious institutions that make up the one body. Such an explanation is void all logic, sound exegesis (interpretation of a text), and common sense! The context of Paul’s statement is regarding division within the *local church* at Corinth and draws a parallel between the human body and the spiritual body of Christ (the church). Of the physical body he states, “But now hath God set the **members** every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him” (1 Cor. 12:18), he then draws the conclusion that even though there are “many members” in the human body there is “yet but one body” (1 Cor. 12:20). Paul then applies the parallel to the church: “Now ye are the **body** of Christ, and **members** in particular” (1 Cor. 12:27). The idea that each religious group is a “member in particular” making up the body of Christ is a complete and utter perversion of the text! Paul was addressing individual members of the New Testament at Corinth NOT Protestant sectarian bodies!

Furthermore, the words of Paul are in full agreement with Jesus. Citing the teaching of Christ it is insisted by Protestantism that each religious group is a distinct *vine* of the branch: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). But these words of Jesus were not addressed to Protestant sectarian bodies! They were addressed to, and can only be applied to individuals. Note the following verse: "If a **man** abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch" (John 15:6).

Dear friends, there are many members of the body. There may be hundreds of members in any given local area and still millions worldwide! But note the words of Paul to the Ephesians, "There is **one body**" (Eph. 4:4-6) and that body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Knowing the Scriptures we should neither avoid the truth of the one church nor should we be ashamed for Jesus said, "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels" (Lk. 9:26).

Next week will continue our examination of the biblical evidence of the one church.

Blessed Or Spoiled?

The amount of wealth some people have is absolutely dumbfounding. Even more astonishing is the attitude that can come with it. For example:

- Some grandparents generously gave \$20 inside a card to their wealthy teenage grandchildren. With disgust, they looked at their smiling grandparents and said, "What in the world do you think we can buy with \$20?"
- In college, a guy threw his phone against the wall and destroyed it. He then borrowed a phone to make a call, "Dad, I need a new phone. Mine broke."
- A girl in high school received a brand new Dodge Viper for her birthday, but she hated

the color. So, she gave the car title to a friend. Her parents bought her a new Viper. One lady threw a tantrum on a flight and delayed the entire plane because she couldn't have 3 seats in a row to herself. When she was denied, she grabbed her stuff and stormed off the plane.

No one likes a spoiled, bratty person. There is just something that rubs us wrong when a well-off person is ungrateful and snooty about their possessions. However, before we start pointing fingers, it might surprise us that we are more like these people than we might think.

As Christians, we have access to unbelievable wealth. God is "rich in mercy" and wants to lavish this wealth upon us (Ephesians 2:4). He also wants to show us the "surpassing riches of His grace" (Ephesians 2:7). So, when we're ungrateful for such amazing gifts, it says something about us.

See, too often we tell others we are "blessed" because of the grace and mercy we have in Christ, and yet live our lives sinfully, almost as if we are entitled to these precious gifts. When we go on sinning, it is an indicator of just how much we actually treasure God's blessings. It tells how thankful, or not, we are for them. It shows, frankly, that we've become spoiled.

Paul was also dealing with people who were taking advantage of God's grace. This is why he rhetorically asks, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1-2).

The main difference between a blessed person and a spoiled person is the attitude. Are we grateful for our spiritual blessings? Do we treasure, value, and protect them?

When you stand before God's throne, will He see a person who was truly thankful for the blessings He gave, or a person who was spoiled by them?

- Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 14, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: BJ Davis, Scott DeDear, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Pat Gooch
P.M. Closing: Mike McVey

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Doug Jobs

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Bryant Siegel

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jeffres

We want to thank all of you at MidTown for every act of kindness shown us recently. For each card, for making it possible for Ronnie and family to be with us for an extended time. We were very blessed for he and Sammy to be with us for so long a time. You helped make that possible. A special thanks to Bill and Pat Davis for the pretty birdhouse and wood tray. Especially for each prayer offered up, not only on our behalf, but for our family, and the doctors and nurses and all that were involved in medical care. Thanks again. God is so good. Yours in Him, Freddie and Brenda Scherffius

TODAY! John Moore from Bible Land Passages, will make a report to the congregation during Bible Class.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Don & Linda Anderson from Riverside church of Christ request prayers for their one year old grandson who will be having brain surgery soon. Deann York's sister, Cheryl, was involved in a car accident last week. Janet Morales is recovering from hand surgery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 16, 23, 30: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
April 14: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Ron & Mary Jo White's home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.
April 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting @ 3:30
April 27: F.U.E.L Youth Rally hosted by MidTown

AREA EVENTS

June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Kelly Cannady (14); Nia FitzSimmons, Sandra Marie (17); Joseph Sheeran, Nikhil Verma (19); Jill Powers, McKinley Jacobs, Anthony Scherffius (20)

Happy Anniversary: Robert & Pam Stryker (14); Dharmendra & Archana Verma (20)

SPECIAL NOTE:

The last day for the Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible classes @ 10am will be May 7th, 2019.

Congratulations to Dan and June Fielder on the birth of their twin girls on Monday, April 8, 2019. Maren (5 lbs 10 oz) and Audrey (5 lbs) are doing well.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tissue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

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 April 7, 2019

Bible Class.....	92
A.M. Worship.....	110
P.M. Worship.....	86
Wednesday Bible Study.....	79

Offering \$4,470

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Matthew 17-24



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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