

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

April 21, 2019

Issue 16

The One Church (Part 2)

Ronnie Scherffius

The Scriptures are clear. The church of Christ is the body of Christ: “And [**the Father**] hath put all things under his [**Jesus**] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church**, which is **his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23). A further unmistakable truth is that there is only one body: “There is **one body**” (Eph. 4:4); “But now are they many members, yet but **one body**” (1 Cor. 12:20). Since the church is the body and there is only one body, it stands to reason that there is only one church. However, one may object saying, “I see many churches in my community; they wear different names, worship in different ways, and teach different doctrines but there is definitely more than one church!”

While it cannot be denied that there are many religious institutions founded upon the traditions and doctrines of men, and that these religious bodies are identified nominally as *a church* such does not demand that they are *the church* about which one reads in the New Testament. Jesus affirmed, “I will build **my church**” (Mt. 16:18) but He has no part of spurious churches sprung from human tradition. Paul wrote that Jesus is “the saviour of the body” (Eph. 3:23), i.e., “his body” (Eph. 1:23), but gave no such guarantee to “churches” manufactured from creeds or catechisms.

According to Luke, on the day the gospel was first preached (Acts 2:22-36), “about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41) were “added to the church” (Acts 2:47). Now, if it is the case that there are many churches and that the differing names, worship, doctrines, and

practices of each are legitimate one might ask, “To which of these churches were Christians added on the Day of Pentecost.” Were some added to the Catholic church and others to the Lutheran faith? Is it the case that some received Calvinistic Presbyterianism while others chose the Methodist’s or Baptist’s fellowship? And if they were “added” to the Baptist church were they a part of the First, Second, Third, Missionary, Free Will, or Primitive Baptist churches? Did some identify with the Jehovah’s Witnesses, or even the Mormons? Perhaps the early first century wasn’t late enough for the Latter Day Saints!

The point is simple. In the first century there was but one church. **And** the New Testament church (i.e., the church about which we read in the New Testament) **was** the church of Christ (i.e., it belonged to Him). If one travelled from town to town or city to city and worshipped with Christians they were worshipping with the church of Christ in that town or city. The doctrine taught was the same (1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14, et al), the pattern of worship did not differ (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2), leadership structure was identical (Acts 14:23; 15:4; 20:17; Phil. 1:1; et al), and in fact, there were no names of the churches. The disciples were simply called Christians (Acts 11:26) and were members of the local church where they lived (Acts 9:31; 13:1; 15:41; 18:22; 20:17; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14). Each of these local churches do not demand that there is more than one church but collectively they make up the one

body of Christ (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20).

The church which Jesus promised to build began at a particular time, the first Pentecost after His death (Acts 2). The church for which Jesus died began in a specific place, Jerusalem (Acts 2). The church of which Jesus is the head teaches one doctrine and worships according to the divine pattern (Acts 2:42; Rom. 6:16; Mt. 15:9; 28:19-20). The church of which Jesus is the Savior has identifying marks which may be easily discovered by comparing any and all religious institutions to the New Testament.

Yes, there are many manmade religious bodies which identify themselves as a church or even *the* church, but Jesus built only one. Brethren, let us strive always to follow the New Testament pattern. Brethren, let us ever bear the marks of the New Testament church. Brethren, let us never lose our distinctiveness. Brethren, let us never lose our right to exist!

Bomb Cyclone

Yesterday was a picture perfect day here in Colorado. You could have slipped on your flip-flops, walked down to the park, and basked in the perfect 80-degree temperature while enjoying a delightful breeze in your face. Today, we're under a blizzard warning. More specifically, we're expecting a "bomb cyclone" (yes, a second one). Just hours before the storm started, the news indicated that it was going to reach bomb cyclone levels ([MSN](#)).

This leaves me asking a couple of questions: 1) What exactly is a "bomb cyclone"? 2) Who in the world comes up with these names? While the second question is a mystery, the first is easily explained. Technically speaking, all storms are cyclones. The term "bomb" simply means that it develops explosively. A storm becomes a bomb cyclone when it has a central pressure drop of 24 millibars within 24 hours

([Fox News](#)). In simple terms, it is a severe storm that develops very quickly, typically bringing high winds and a lot of snow/rain. Since it happens so suddenly, it becomes particularly dangerous when a person is caught unprepared for it.

While the mid-west braces and prepares for this bomb cyclone, let's also allow this storm serve as a reminder to prepare for much a more serious event – Judgment Day (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). That day is coming. We've had plenty of warnings (Matthew 24:42-44). There is no reason people should be caught unprepared (Matthew 25:1-13). Sadly, people will still be unprepared (Matthew 24:42-51).

It's ironic. We will brace for a storm by buying groceries, make sure we have alternate light and heating sources, and double-checking the integrity of the home. However, for Judgment Day we can end up leaving ourselves spiritually starving (1 Peter 2:2), without the Light (1 John 1:5-7), and with cracks in our spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-17). The results will be disastrous.

So let's make sure we're prepared. Prepared for life's storms. Prepared for Judgment Day. And when necessary, prepared for both.

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SPECIAL NOTE:

There is expired or almost expired canned goods on the hallway table if you would like to take them. There is also non-expired canned food in the benevolence pantry if you are in need, please help yourself.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 21, 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: Kevin Sheeran
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Bryant Siegel

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jeffres

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.

Peach Valley Youth Camp—July 21st-26th! Applications are available online for all interested in attending.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Donna Shannon, who is still recovering from a broken arm. Mike McVey, who was in the hospital last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 23,30: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
April 27: F.U.E.L Youth Rally hosted by MidTown

AREA EVENTS

June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Nicolette Garcia (21)

Happy Anniversary: Scott & Trisha Foerster (27)

SPECIAL NOTE:

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

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
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 14, 2019

Bible Class.....90
A.M. Worship.....116
P.M. Worship.....84
Wednesday Bible Study.....87

Offering \$4,273

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Matthew 25-Mark 2



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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