



Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 31

The Lord's Church Is Different

by: Ronnie Scherffius

There is just something about the Lord's church that is different. Mention that you are a member of the church of Christ and note their reaction. It may be positive. It may be negative. But you can be sure that if they are familiar with distinctions between religious groups they will instantly admit that the Lord's church is different. And why not?! The Lord's church **should** be distinct from manmade protestantism. In fact, if we lose our distinctiveness we lose our right to exist! The religious institutions of men may change with the whims and wishes of people but the Lord's church was not left to man as a religious experiment. It is the eternally purposed blood bought body of saved humanity of which Jesus Christ is the head. (Eph. 3:8-11; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23) Let's notice just a few ways in which the Lord's church is different from other "Christian" institutions we see populating the landscape of christendom today.

The Lord's church is different by its establishment. The Lord's church was established in the first half of the first century in the city of Jerusalem at the time the Holy Spirit of power was given according to the promise of God. Both Isaiah and Daniel prophesied of the church's beginnings. Isaiah foretold:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and

let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Isa. 2:2-3)

Daniel also prophesied of the Lord's church when he interpreted the dream of the heathen king Nebuchadnezzar:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." (Dan. 2:44-45)

Jesus foretold of the establishment of His church. (Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 1:8) Peter clearly established the fact of the Old Testament prophets foretelling the establishment of the Lord's church from ancient times. (1 Pt. 1:10-12; 2 Pt. 1:20-21; Acts

2:16-36; cf. Joel 2:28-32; 2 Sam. 7:11-17) Jesus professed that He would build His church (Mt. 16:18) **and** it would be established when, where, and how it had been determined from the foundation of the world. (Jn. 7:6-8; Lk 13:32; Acts 1:6-7; 4:25-28; Eph. 1:3-10)

The Lord's church did not rise up incidentally from the chaos of the Roman Empire to have men determine its doctrine, hierarchy, worship, and practices. It was eternally purposed and established as the kingdom of heaven with Jesus as its only head. Next week we will notice some other ways in which the Lord's church is different from the protestant denominations so prevalent in the world today.

The Inevitable Standard By: Neal Pollard

Everywhere, each generation tries to figure out the why and how of living. Most will not find the right path (Mat. 7:13-14). Almost all are convicted, even passionate, about the way they wish to live life. They may be fiery about politics, social issues, relationships, and even religious ideals, and to be consistent they must appeal to some ultimately, overarching authority that makes right and wrong whatever their point of view. Will it be feelings, friends, the majority, the minority, the church, family, a teacher, culture, or something else? The Bible claims to be the arbitrator by which all matters are judged. But if not the Bible, there has to be some universal absolutes with an adequate origin to compel people to follow it. Whether the issue is rape, murder, stealing, or similar norm that stands between order and chaos, there has to be adequate reason to submit to it.

This inevitable standard helps us decide whether or not a Creator exists. If there is nothing (no One) greater, bigger, wiser, and stronger than us, why can't we decide right and wrong as our whims determine? Why

would we desire civilization and peace? Why would we wish good will or at least peaceful coexistence with each other?

The inevitable standard helps us decide which god (God) is to be followed. Do their alleged writings and teachings cohere and show consistency? Do they adequately answer the great questions of life?

The inevitable standard helps us decide whether or not Bible doctrines taught by men are consistent with and true to what the Bible actually teaches. How do we know how to worship, be saved from sins, what roles to play in life, what our purpose is, and how to reach a desirable destiny? The nonsensical claim that you have your truth and I have mine is unacceptable in every other discipline (building construction, medicine, physics, mathematics, etc.). Even falling back on "you have your interpretation and I have mine" is a dangerous slope since there are matters of life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

The inevitable standard helps us fulfill our roles in the home, the church, and the world. How should we live and how should we help our physical family, spiritual family, and communities live? It matters!

It may gall us to think we all must concede to a standard of right and wrong, of absolute truth. To say that all of us are accountable to the same standard may be construed as bigoted, small-minded, or narrow, but everything falls apart if each of us follows our own set of rules. Imagine an interstate where every driver followed whatever they thought they should and ignored whatever they felt they could or should. All of us are on the road of life heading somewhere. How will we get there? There is an inevitable standard, given by God to us through men He moved to write it down (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of August 4, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Kirk FitzSimmons, Scott DeDear, Brant Jacobs

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Steve Randle
P.M. Closing: Larry Nuckels

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wednesday: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Bryant Siegel

Open/Close Building:

Sound System:

Don Lynn

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion:

Jeffres

Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Classes will resume on September 10th. Please make plans to attend.

The Ladies Bible Class will meet at Jason's Deli for lunch on Tuesday, August 27 at 11:30am. This will be a time of fellowship and discussion for the upcoming year. All ladies are invited and encouraged to come.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Wayne Martin, who was at Citizens Hospital last week. Rex Horst, who will have surgery this month. Kristen O'Connor, granddaughter of Jerri Jeffres, who was in the hospital last week with kidney stones. Beverly Williams, sister of Sandra Daltry, who had colon surgery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 10: GEMS meeting
Aug. 11: Jr/Sr. High devotional at the White's house.
Sept. 10: Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Class
MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting—Nov. 10-13 with Jason Rollo.

AREA EVENTS

Aug. 4-9: Gospel meeting @ Riverside
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Joyce Neel (1); Mark FitzSimmons (2); Peyton Foerster (3); Mako Garcia, Anna Jacobs (4); Allena Cannady (6); Roy Arnot (9)

Happy Anniversary: Jerry & Janice FitzSimmons (6)

August 11th after evening worship there will be singing at the Morales home. Please RSVP as a meal will be provided.

55+ older are invited to a get together August 16th here at the building. Time to be determined. Please bring sandwiches & chips. A cake will be provided.

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 July 28, 2019

Bible Class.....97
A.M. Worship.....120
P.M. Worship.....81
Wednesday Bible Study.....80

Offering \$4,385

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Romans 9—1 Corinthians 4



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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