

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

February 24, 2019

Issue 8

Defeating Satan's Purposes

Wayne Jones

Satan has tried to overthrow God's purposes since the beginning of time. Ever since the promise was made that Eve's offspring would bruise Satan's heel, the battle has raged. It is highlighted in several Biblical texts like Job 1 and 2 and Matthew 4 (the temptation in the wilderness). This was especially true in the early days of the church. Paul talks about this very thing in 1 Thessalonians 2:18. Specifically, he stated, "Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us." In the context, what Satan hindered was the reuniting of brethren that had been separated by persecution. Paul was only able to spend a few weeks with these brethren at the time of their conversion (Acts 17:2). After his departure, he was concerned about their faithfulness and stability. Due to the hindrances of Satan, he could not return to check on them and this fact troubled him greatly. Instead of succumbing to Satan's discouragements, Paul found another way and defeated Satan's purposes. 1 Thessalonians 3:6 verifies that Paul did learn of their condition and was refreshed by it. Satan didn't want Paul to know. He didn't want Paul to find out. He didn't want Paul's mind to be put at ease. He didn't want the faith of the Thessalonians to be shared knowledge. But his purposes were defeated. They were defeated by 5 principles contained in the first 5 verses of 1 Thessalonians 3. With these same 5 principles we can defeat Satan's purposes in our world today.

• **First, Paul sacrificed his original plans (3:1-2 a).**

Paul did not let his ego or pride get in the way. He wanted to go and see them face-to-face, but he was not so stubborn that he could not alter his agenda. We must never let our personal pride get in the way of spiritual victory. We do not have to win as long as souls are strengthened and refreshed.

• **Second, others were adequately equipped to handle situations (2 b).**

Timothy was qualified to be Paul's replacement or delegate. His empowerment came through his association and his salvation. He was Paul's brother and God's co-worker. Timothy was just as capable and qualified for this work. The lesson for us is simple – we need to train more people to do more work so that more can be accomplished. One way we can defeat Satan's purposes is to train more soldiers in God's army.

• **Third, have a defined mission (2 c-3).**

Timothy was not sent in to survey the mission or simply as a guest preacher. He was sent to "establish" and "encourage." His work was to strengthen their spiritual condition and to give them reason to hope. Our mission and goals need to be clearly defined or else as we walk aimlessly, we will never be victorious.

• **Fourth, be aware of Satan's modes of attack (4).**

Paul had warned that persecution might come, so they knew what to expect. Likewise, we should "not be ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11), because his methods have been revealed (1 John 2:15).

• **Fifth, be motivated by love (5).**

Twice in this context, Paul reveals that he

“could no longer endure” not knowing about them. His tender affection and genuine concern (i.e., love) motivated him just like it should motivate us. May we strive to fight the good fight and overcome the evil one!

The University Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, July 9, 2017.

An Essential Purchase

By: Andy Baker

Reflections on Proverbs 23:23: Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

I have the choice to buy the truth. Buying and selling is as natural as breathing in the consumer-driven culture of America 2015. Advertisements and appeals bombard the average American from all over with one message: “buy this to be happy!” Solomon says in Proverbs, “Buy the truth,” and accessorize it with “wisdom, instruction, and understanding” in order to enrich your life. Does the buyer see value in what the truth offers? Does he understand the benefit of truth for his life? Solomon would classify this as the difference between being wise and being foolish (c.f. Prov. 17:16).

I have the choice not to buy the truth. Many people go through life with evidence and truth all around them and never really buy into it. Atheists and secular scientists come to mind looking at the universe around them in all its complexity, order and design and still being willfully blind to the grand Designer (Rom. 1:18-21). These are not the only ones who do not buy the truth, though. Many members of the church, and those lost drift along through their lives and never really buy into the truth of the gospel seeing it as essential for their lives. Thus, shallow and superficial Christians abound because they hear truth and do not do it (Matt. 7:24-27; James 1:22).

I can buy something that is not true. If someone chooses not to buy the truth, then

it is assured that they will buy something that is not true. Consider again, the atheists and secular scientists refusing to keep God in their knowledge (Rom. 1:25). Truth is a hard thing to hear and accept sometimes. Truth caused men to hate Jesus to the point that they crucified Him. Still today, people are buying religious traditions and teachings that are not true, because they see the teachings of Jesus as being “too hard” (c.f. Jn. 6:60-69). There are always counterfeit truths being sold in the religious market (II Cor. 2:17).

I can sell the truth. A person sells what he does not value or treasure. Thus, there is something else that is more needful or necessary at that particular time than having that item. Solomon urges men to buy the truth and hold onto it, treasure it, and value it. When a person ceases and stops valuing the truth they are holding onto, they will count it as loss and treasure something else. The Hebrew Christians were admonished to, “not cast away your confidence which has great reward” (Heb. 10:35). When time is spent in God’s Word in seeking wisdom and understanding and instruction, the value of truth comes out far above silver and gold (Psalm 119:72).

SWSBS—Student Lectureship

Hosted by MidTown church of Christ

“LESSONS IN LYRICS”

Sunday, Feb. 24

9:00am Bible Class: Scout Betz

10:00am Worship: Garrett English

11:30am Potluck Luncheon

1:00pm Worship: Brennan Hooper

Song Leader: Parker Webster

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of February 24, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Dennis Bryson
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Scott DeDear, Kirk FitzSimmons, Curtis Scherffius

Sunday Evening: Doug Jobes, Dennis Bryson

Prayer

A.M. Closing: SWSBS Student
P.M. Closing: SWSBS Student

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Anthony Scherffius

Open/Close Building: Hutt

Sound System: Don Lynn

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Hutt

TODAY! We will have a congregational luncheon after the morning worship. Please bring your favorite dish and there will be a 1pm afternoon service in lieu of the 5pm evening worship.

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.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Donna Shannon, who is still recovering from a broken arm; Bill Young, who has ongoing medical issues; Wayne Martin, who is in Citizens Hospital Room 480; Freddie Scherffius, who is recovering from bypass surgery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 24: Southwest School of Bible Studies: Student Lectures hosted by MidTown.

Feb. 26: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am

March 3: Forever Young meeting

March 5,12,19,26: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am

March 9: GEMS Meeting

March 10: Jr./ Sr. high devotional

March 24-27: Spring gospel meeting with Wade Webster.

AREA EVENTS

Feb. 28-Mar. 3: Arise: Spiritual Growth workshop @ SW church of Christ

Mar. 29-31: Gospel meeting @ Adams Street church of Christ. More info on the bulletin board in hallway.

Mar. 30: South Texas Youth Lectures @ Adams Street . More info on the bulletin board in hallway.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Simon Cammock (24); Jackie York (26); Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez (27).

Happy Anniversary: Richard & Mickey Tisue (26)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
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 February 17, 2019

Bible Class.....105
A.M. Worship.....127
P.M. Worship.....77
Wednesday Bible Study.....75

Offering \$3,888

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Tongue

Acceptable words.....Psalm 19:14
Unruly evil.....James 3:5-8
1 Pet. 4:11; Prov. 18:21; Phil. 2:11



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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