

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 2

The Blessings Of Faithfulness (Part 3)

Ronnie Scherffius

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2).

The past two weeks, we have considered the blessings of faithfulness. This week we will conclude our study noting four more great blessings we enjoy by living faithfully the Christian life.

Faithfulness will make God proud of us.

The Hebrews writer exhorted:

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: ***wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God.***” (Heb. 11:13-16)

Noah was faithful to God—God was proud of him. Abraham was faithful to God - God was proud of him. Sara, Isaac, and Jacob were all faithful to God — and God was proud of them. Consider also Job:

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto

Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, ***Hast thou considered my servant Job***, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” (Job 1:6-8)

As a faithful servant of God we know that God says, “Well done” and we know that He is proud of us!

Faithfulness will inspire Christ to stand up for us. Throughout the Scriptures we read that Jesus is “sitting” at the right hand of God (Mk. 16:19; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 2:2). But when Stephen exhibited stalwart strength and steadfast faithfulness, we see Jesus rising for the occasion: “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man ***standing*** on the right hand of God” (Acts 7:54-56).

Consider also Paul, whose faithful life brought him into the courts of Nero Caesar where he no doubt soundly and ably defended the cross of Christ. In the time of trial, no man stood with Paul, yet the apostle was not alone: “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwith-

standing **the Lord stood with me**, and strengthened me” (2 Tim. 4:16-17).

A faithful Christian life will not only bring eternal blessings but also inspire Christ to stand up for us.

Finally, **faithfulness will give us peace of mind**. Paul wrote of the peace that is enjoyed by the faithful of God, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:4-7).

Living faithfully brings peace of mind because the faithful know they are saved (John 8:32; 1 Jn. 5:13). Paul said it this way: “For which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12).

The faithful can have peace of mind even in difficult times because they know God hears their prayers: “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us” (1 John 5:14; cf. Eph. 3:8-12). Jeremiah wrote of the unfaithful who had a false peace (Jer. 6:13-15) but Isaiah declared that the faithful enjoy true peace: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace [**literally: peace upon peace**], whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isa. 26:3). When we focus on God, keep His cause the most important part of our lives, trust in Him and are faithful — we have perfect peace.

Faithfulness guarantees us a crown of life: “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Are you living faithfully the Christian life enjoying the blessings of faithfulness and anxiously awaiting the eternal glory of the faithful?

Ladies' Day 2019



"The Proverbial Woman"

Speaker: Wendy Gibson

(From Riverside Church of Christ in Corpus Christi)

MidTown Church of Christ

5901 US Hwy 87N

Victoria, TX 77904

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Registration: 9 - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch Provided

Lip Service

The words of the prophets have been searching the hearts of men down through the centuries. An especially penetrating prophecy is quoted by Jesus from Isaiah: “This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” Lip service is never acceptable to God. It matters not how much we say we love God; proof of the matter lies in our service to Him. An outward appearance of righteousness can never hide our true nature if, indeed, we are guided by worldliness. God looks upon the inner man. Let us act accordingly.

- Selected -

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 13, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Manny Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Lupe Escojido
Assist: BJ Davis, Sammy Scherffius, Isaac Jobs

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Dennis Bryson
P.M. Closing: Ron White

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Dennis Bryson

Open/Close Building: Steve Randle

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Steve Randle

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.

TODAY: There will be a men's business meeting at 3:00pm at the building.

Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items: toilet paper and cereal. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway. The truck will be here the week of Feb. 12-13th.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALICIA HERNANDEZ, mother of Letty Randle, who had a stroke; BILL YOUNG, who has requested prayers for his health and upcoming surgeries; DON WALKER, who had a heart transplant last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 13: Men's Business meeting @ 3pm
Jan. 13: Ladies "Reading through the Bible" meeting @ 4pm
Jan. 13: Jr/Sr. High Devo hosted by the Gooch's
Feb. 2: Ladies Day

AREA EVENTS

Jan. 25-27: "Defending the Truth" @ Port Lavaca, speaker Kyle Butt.
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: D'Marcus Bryson (14)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady Ann Pantel
Dee Gilpatrick Clark Withers

SHUT-INS

Faye Henderson Sandy Malone

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Kim Neel-Farthing Vikram Gottam
(daughter of Joyce) (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)

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 January 6, 2019

Bible Class.....91
A.M. Worship.....119
P.M. Worship.....95
Wednesday Bible Study.....92

Offering \$4,667

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Resurrection

All people.....John 5:28-29
Christ raised.....John 11:24-25
At end of world.....1 Cor. 15:22
1 Thes. 4:13-18; Rom. 14:10-12



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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