

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

January 6, 2019

Issue 1

The Blessings Of Faithfulness (Part 2)

Ronnie Scherffius

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

Last week we noted how that we often focus on the negative when preaching/teaching. Certainly there is a negative component of opposing error but there is also a positive component to faithful Christian living! Having already considered that living faithfully will keep us from falling and that faithfulness will prepare us to defend truth let’s note some other blessings enjoyed from faithfulness to God.

Faithfulness gains God’s approval. Everyone desires the approval of someone. Children desire the approval of their parents, husbands and wives desire the approval of each other, employees desire the approval of their employer, even a dog seeks the approval of his master.

Our faithfulness gains God’s approval. “Study **[give diligence]** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). The word translated *approved* was used by the Greeks especially of coins and metals in the sense of being proved and tried. When used of Christians it refers to those whose faith has proved to be genuine through trials. James would write: “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is **tried**, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

When we are tested through trials, tribulations, and temptations and emerge faithful and true to God we gain God’s approval (2 Cor. 10:17-18). Peter referred to Jesus as “a man approved of God” (Acts 2:22) and Noah

was a man approved by God because of his faithful life: “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:5-8). One of the blessings of faithfulness is the gaining of God’s approval.

Faithfulness brings Glory to God. Preachers often emphasize obedience to the commands of God, submission to the authority of Christ, and faithful Christian living so that we do not bring shame on the church and the name of Christ. But from a positive perspective our faithfulness brings glory to God. Jesus instructed “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works **[faithfulness!]**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). Consider together Jesus parable of the vine and branches in comparison to the fruits of the Spirit:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except

it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 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. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit [**love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22-23)**]; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:1-8)

The psalmist wrote: “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; **To shew that the LORD is upright**” (Psalm 92:12-15). Peter spoke likewise saying, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever” (1 Peter. 4:11). One of the many blessings of faithfulness is bringing glory to God!

How Much Money is Needed for Happiness?

How much money would it take for you to be happy? The “Skandia International’s Wealth Sentiment Monitor” conducted a survey to answer this very question. Based on the results they collected from 13 countries, the perfect annual income for happiness is \$95,000 (Market Watch). According to the United States Census Bureau, the average American household makes \$61,372 per year (CNBC). People would finally be able to be happy if they had triple the average income, wouldn’t they?

Robert Thompson is the president of Sage Financial Design, a company that helps very wealthy people. He had this to say about the clients he works with, “The rule of thumb we use is sudden wealth will ruin people in three to five years...At the end of five years, the money’s going to be gone or the human being is going to be gone. They either lose their money or themselves or both”. While Thompson was specifically speaking of people who suddenly come into money, it is no secret that even those who have worked for their riches are unhappy. Story after story can be found of athletes going bankrupt, lottery winners losing it all, celebrities with serious life problems, as well as the demise and depression of other wealthy people. Will we ever learn that money is not the source of happiness? The issue rests on the fact that we need some money to survive. Unless we want to live in poverty, we need money. It’s intertwined with life. If we get a raise in salary, it does make life more comfortable. The problem is, we fall into the trap of thinking we will continue to become happier and more comfortable with the increase in money. It’s one of the greatest lies in this life.

God has often tried to warn us. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil,” and Matthew 6:24 states, “You cannot serve God and wealth.” It’s time we heed God’s warnings about money. Having an annual income of \$161,810 will not produce happiness, it would merely allow for us to feed our own selfishness.

So where is true happiness found? Genuine happiness is found in something meaningful, rewarding, fulfilling, and something that reaches beyond ourselves. It goes past this life and reaches the eternal. Nothing fits these qualities better than life as a Christian. Jesus said it this way, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

If we really want to be happy, then let’s place our wealth in Christ’s hands, not in our own.

- Selected -

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 6, 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: Steve Randle
P.M. Closing: Don Lynn

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ron White

Open/Close Building: Steve Randle

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Steve Randle

2019 POCKET DIRECTORY:

Today is the last day to update your contact information for the 2019 pocket directory in the foyer.

Ladies' Day hosted by MidTown church of Christ will be Saturday, February 2, 2019 with speaker Wendy Gibson. She will be speaking on "The Proverbial Woman." Registration begins at 9am. Ladies, please make plans to attend and bring a friend. Lunch will be provided.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALICIA HERNANDEZ, mother of Letty Randle, who had a stroke.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 6: Forever Young group meeting
Jan. 12: GEMS meeting
Jan. 13: Men's Business meeting @ 3pm
Jan. 13: Ladies "Reading through the Bible" meeting @ 4pm
Jan. 13: Jr/Sr. High Devo
Feb. 2: Ladies Day

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Elana Carroll (7); Richard Hill (11); James S. Reeves (12)

Happy Anniversary: Jeff & Amy Harris (9)

SPECIAL NOTE:

More Brochure/Tracts have been ordered and are located in the foyer and hallway. These pamphlets are a great resource.

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 December 30, 2018

Bible Class.....80
A.M. Worship.....126
P.M. Worship.....74
Wednesday Bible Study.....75

Offering \$3,651

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Repentance

God commands.....Acts 17:30
Repent or perish.....Luke 13:3
Acts 2:38; Luke 24:46; Luke 15:7



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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MidTown Church of Christ

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