

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

July 21, 2019

Issue 29

## A Mind To Work (Part 2)

by: Ronnie Scherffius

Inquiring of the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity Nehemiah learned that the people were, “in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.” (Neh. 1:2-3) The heart of Nehemiah was so deeply affected for his brethren and his nation that he “sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.” (Neh. 1:4) Even after days of fasting and prayer Nehemiah, the royal cupbearer, remained so disheartened that king Artaxerxes inquired of his state: “Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart.” (Neh. 2:2) Fearful of the king’s reaction Nehemiah reverently replied “Let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?” (Neh. 2:3)

In a turn of events that can only be described as providential the Persian king granted Nehemiah a commission to return to Jerusalem with authority to reconstruct the walls of the city of his people. Along with a verbal commission Nehemiah also had in his possession a letter requiring assistance from the king’s servants: “Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of

the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.” (Neh. 2:7-8)

After returning to Jerusalem and surveying the ruins of the city Nehemiah informed the rulers of the people of God’s providential hand being with him and of the king’s gracious support. The response of the rulers and the people’s reaction must have greatly emboldened Nehemiah, “Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.” (Neh. 2:18) More encouraging than their verbal response was the people’s attitude and actions: “So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.” (Neh. 4:6) What can we learn from the attitude and actions of the people that will help us in our laboring for the Lord today?

Consider first that **the people had a mind to work collectively**. Note the opening of Nehemiah chapter three: “Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they built the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel. And **next unto him builded** the men of Jericho. And **next to them builded** Zaccur the son of Imri. But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof. And **next unto them** repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And **next unto them** repaired

Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And **next unto them** repaired Zadok the son of Baana.” (Neh. 3:1-4) Notice a key phrase that runs continually throughout the chapter, “*next unto them.*” No less than thirteen times do we see this emphasis on the people having a mind to work collectively. The people came together as a nation of people with one heart, one purpose, and one goal. But they not only put their hearts together they also put their hands together to build up the defenses and strengthen the nation.

The Corinthian church struggled greatly with division. Paul’s words of admonition to this young church stand as a witness to the importance of brethren working collectively as one people (1 Cor. 1:10). Multiple times Paul emphasized the importance of working as one: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**” (1 Cor. 12:13); “But now are they many members, yet but **one body**” (1 Cor. 12:20); “members should have the same care one for another” (1 Cor. 12:25); “And whether one member suffer, **all the members suffer** with it; or one member be honoured, **all the members rejoice** with it.” (1 Cor. 12:26) Paul’s closing admonition in his final letter to the Corinthians serves to emphasize the importance we should place on having a mind to work collectively as a people of God: “Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Cor. 13:11)

One of the great lessons we learn from the attitude of the people in Nehemiah’s day is that we should have a mind to work with one another collectively as a body purposed to fulfill the work of the Lord. Next week we will continue our study noting the prayerful and watchful character of this people who had a mind to work.

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### Consequences

When the children of Israel were sent in by God to conquer the land of promise, they were given very distinct instructions on what they were to do concerning the people who occupied the land. They were to “utterly destroy” everyone and everything in the land (Deut. 7:2-5; 12:2; Num. 33:52). God had warned them what would happen if they did

not do as He had commanded them (Num. 33:55). Sadly, the Israelites did NOT obey God (Josh. 9; 15:63; 17:11-13). There were consequences. Because Moses did not “honor” God when he struck the rock (Num. 20:10-12), he and Aaron were not allowed to enter the land of promise. The serpent (Gen. 3:14), Eve (Gen. 3:16), and Adam (Gen. 3:17) were all cursed with consequences for their part in eating the forbidden fruit. When King Saul disobeyed God, the kingdom was taken from him (1 Sam. 13:14:15:23). Over and over throughout the Bible we see consequences bourn by different people because of their actions or decisions. In every instance, if God said there would be certain consequences as a result of words or actions, those things came true just as God had said with no variation.

This is important to us as Christians because in many areas of our world, people do not believe in consequences for what we say or do. Some consequences cannot be avoided. If I drink alcohol, use tobacco, abuse narcotics, or do not control my eating, they very well may cause harm to my body which could result in death. My actions may even cause harm to others who are completely innocent.

In too many other areas, consequences are avoided or ignored. Respect for our laws diminishes because even if consequences are stated, the will to enforce them seems to have vanished. We see this every day in what is being practiced with respect to our children and grandchildren. We see it displayed in our judicial system. We can easily see it in society and in the workplace. People simply do not have the desire or will to hold people responsible for their actions or enforcing consequences.

It is this idea that somehow we are immune to bearing the consequences of our actions that, applied to Spiritual matters, will ultimately condemn our souls. God holds people accountable. When He says there will be consequences, there ARE consequences. For those who are Christians but do not remain faithful in their service to God, there are consequences (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Heb. 6:4-6). For those who are not Christians, the consequences of not believing (John 8:24), of not repenting of our sins (Luke 13:3), of not confessing our faith (Matt. 10:33), or not having our sins washed away (John 3:5) are eternal consequences.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Gal. 6:7-8)

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 21, 2019

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Lupe Escojido  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Don Lynn  
Assist: BJ Davis, Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch

**Sunday Evening:** Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran  
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels  
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran  
Wednesday: Kevin Sheeran

### **Ushers:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Wednesday Devotional:**

Doug Jobs

### **Open/Close Building:**

Scherffius

### **Sound System:**

Trenton Jenkins

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Prepare Communion:**

Dolan



Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items only: Cake mixes, frostings, Cooking Spray. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Our youth campers that will be at Peach Valley Camp this week. Mike McVey, who is in the hospital in Canyon City, Colorado. Maddie Svec, daughter of a friend of Brant and Anna Jacobs, who is having neurological complications. Benjamin Bryson, son of Dennis and Sandy Bryson, who will be having ear surgery soon for a serious infection.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AREA EVENTS

July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp  
Aug. 2-4: Discipleship University @ Dripping Springs  
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: Desmon Flonnory, II (22); Mike Atkinson (26); Izzy Scherffius, Kaylee Scherffius, Athena Scherffius (27)

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**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.

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### 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 14, 2019

Bible Class.....90  
A.M. Worship.....114  
P.M. Worship.....74  
Wednesday Bible Study.....80

Offering      \$3,737

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

**Acts 21—Acts 28**



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## 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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