

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 24

The Tragedy Of Living In A Lost Condition

by: Ronnie Scherffius

There is no greater tragedy than for a man to die in a lost condition. The Hebrews writer instructed, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). To the pagan sophists of Athens Paul gave assurance that God will indeed "judge the world" (Acts 17:31). That judgment will take place when "all nations" are gathered together to appear before "the judgment seat of Christ" (Mt. 25:32; 2 Cor. 5:10) to receive either reward or condemnation, to hear "well done" or "depart" (Mt. 25:21, 41). In sin, Adam and Eve "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord" (Gen. 3:8) but those who die in sins will be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thess. 1:9). There is only one circumstance of man that is comparable to the tragedy of dying in a lost condition — living in a lost condition.

It is a tragedy to live in a lost condition because he lives a life fighting against God. Paul realized the great tragedy of fighting against God when his Savior charged "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:5). No more sobering statement could be made to demonstrate the helplessness of one fighting against God than the censure received by Job:

Hast thou an arm like God? Or canst thou thunder with a voice like him? Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold

every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee. (Job 40:9-14)

The psalmist also painted a dire picture for that one whose life is spent fighting against his Creator:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. (Ps. 2:1-4)

What a sad condition; what a tragic life - to live in a lost condition and to spend your energy and life fighting against God.

It is a tragedy to live in a lost condition because the better a person is morally the more harm he is going to do if he is not a child of God. Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees saying, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold

more the child of hell than yourselves” (Mt. 23:15). The numbers of lost souls who have followed false teachers will be legion! But what about the countless innocent souls influenced by *good moral* people who reject Jesus and His church as unnecessary as long as you “just live a good life.” There is no man more highly praised in the New Testament than Cornelius. He is described as “A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:2). Cornelius would put many good men to shame today by his life, but Luke instructs us that Cornelius called for Peter that he might hear the gospel to be saved from his lost condition (Acts 11:14-15). How many did Cornelius influence by obeying the gospel? How many followed his example? Now, how many might have followed him away from Christ had he rejected the gospel? Not many will follow an alcoholic. Not many will follow an adulterer or wife beater. But a good man who provides for his family, is a good husband and father but refuses to obey the gospel will turn many souls away from the saving Christ. What a tragic life to be morally good but eternally lost!

It is a tragedy for a man to live in a lost condition because all the good deeds in his life will be of no profit. “But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? ***All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned:*** in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die” (Ezek. 18:24). How tragic it will be for one to stand before the Christ and plead, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” (Mt. 7:22) only to hear “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mt. 7:23). Notice that Jesus does not say that they had not done good deeds ONLY that those deeds did not benefit them. The reason, they did not belong to Him! They lived a good life in a lost state.

There is no greater tragedy for a man than to die in a lost condition. “punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the

Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thess. 1:9). But in this life, it is a tragedy unparalleled to live in a lost condition doing good with no eternal benefit, influencing others to the same eternal fate, and fighting a losing battle all against the plans and purposes of God. What is the condition of your soul?

Here is an everyday spiritual packing list:

- **Shoes** – To help us stand up for what is right (1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 6:13)
- **Nice Clothes** – To ensure we present ourselves well to others (1 Peter 2:11-12; Colossians 4:5).
- **Watch** – To remind us our time here is limited (Matthew 24:42).
- **Phone** – To stay in contact with the most important person in the universe (Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- **Glasses** – To clearly see the world for the sinful and temporary place it is (1 John 2:15-17).
- **Blinders** – To keep us focused on what is good, and block out what is not (Philippians 4:8).
- **Umbrella** – To keep us more comfortable on life’s rainy days (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).
- **Mirror** – To help fix flaws we see in ourselves (James 1:22-25).
- **Toothbrush** – To ensure clean speech (Colossians 4:6; James 3:1-12).
- **Deodorant and Cologne/Perfume** – To ensure we are a sweet fragrance of Christ to those who do not know God (2 Corinthians 2:15-16).
- **Vitamins** – To keep us healthy (Deuteronomy 5:33).
- **Compass** – To keep us traveling in the right direction (2 Peter 1:3).
- **GPS** – To navigate through life’s roadblocks and obstacles (Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 10:23).
- **Sword** – To slay false doctrine (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- **Armor** – To protect us from the Devil’s attacks (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- **Seeds** – To place into the hearts of the unbelieving (Matthew 13:1-23).

Navigating through this life can be hard. Let’s make sure we pack well!

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PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of June 16, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobes

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Steve Randle
P.M. Closing: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building: Randles

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Randles



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.

2019 Peach Valley Camp registration is open—
Please see Doug Jobes if you have any questions.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Peggy Matlock, in the loss of her son, John, last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19: Adult Summer Series:- Ronnie Scherffius
June 26: Adult Summer Series-Matt Gibson
June 29: Men's Breakfast @ 8am at the building
June 29: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Yvonne Smith's 6:30 pm
-8:00 pm at River Place, Thomaston
July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series

AREA EVENTS

June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest
July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Ronnie Scherffius, James Cammock (17); Rosalba Barton (18); Emily Cammock (20)

Happy Anniversary: Scott & Rosalba Barton (21)

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.

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 June 9, 2019

Bible Class.....	95
A.M. Worship.....	114
P.M. Worship.....	89
Wednesday Bible Study.....	87

Offering \$3,847

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

John 7—John 13



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

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 573-0030
midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

