



# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

June 2, 2019

Issue 22

## If The Church Doesn't Matter...

by: Ronnie Scherffius

One of the greatest lies ever to cross the lips of man is, "The church doesn't matter." The doctrine of Premillennialism holds that the church is secondary, an afterthought setup because of the Jewish rejection of their Messiah, but when Christ returns, He will finally set up His kingdom. Some decry organized religion saying, "Jesus yes! but the church no! I can be spiritual without being a member of some church!" Those in the denominational world who have no conviction of faith suggest, "Choose the church of your choice. It does not matter which church you belong to as long as you go to church." Even members of the Lord's church who would NEVER verbally express that the church is of little consequence demonstrate such an attitude through a lack of devotion to the work and worship of the church.

A two-fold examination ought to be made. First, we must exam our own attitude and actions with regards to the local church. Second, we should examine this false narrative the world has put forth regarding the insignificance of the church. If we follow the thought that "The church does not matter" to its ultimate end we discover that it has some far-reaching effects on other Christian principles and established truth.

**If the church does not matter...the blood of Christ does not matter.** The blood of Christ purchased the church: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath **purchased with his**

**own blood**" (Acts 20:28). If church does not matter THEN the purchase price does not matter. Since purchase price of the church was Christ's blood—if church does not matter the blood of Christ does not matter. The apostle Peter affirmed that the blood of Jesus is precious because it provides man his only means for redemption of sins (1 Pt. 1:18-19). John affirmed the same noting that by the blood of Jesus Christ man is cleansed from his sins (1 Jn. 1:5-7). But if the church is of little significance then what of the blood that purchased it, **and** what of the redemption and cleansing obtained by that blood?!

**If the church does not matter...salvation does not matter.** The saved are in the church: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be **saved**" (Acts 2:47). The church is the body of Christ: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). Jesus is the Savior of the body: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body [i.e.,the church]" (Eph. 5:23). BUT if the church does not matter then salvation, which is located in the church, does not matter!

**If the church does not matter...God's purposes do not matter.** The Church was in God's eternal purpose: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

## Allergic To Church?

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:8-11).

The death of Christ on the cross to establish the church was also in God's eternal purpose. Just before ascending back to the Father, Jesus told His apostles, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me...Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day" (Luke 24:44, 46). But if the church does not matter the purposes of God regarding the church and the death of Jesus Christ have neither bearing nor consequence on man.

The church is of the greatest importance to man. To the church the saved are added by God; the church is in fact the kingdom of heaven; the gospel which is God's power of God to salvation is the seed planted in the heart of man that produces the church; the Bible is God's revelation to man that informs him of the church and how to become a member of it. If the church does not matter neither salvation, the kingdom of heaven, the gospel, nor the Bible hold any importance for man!

Ask yourself, as a member of the eternally purposed church who has applied Christ's blood to your sins through obedience to the gospel, who has obtained salvation by that blood, all according to God's eternally purposed scheme of redemption, would you ever **say** the church is not important? Certainly not! Now, ask yourself, do you through your lack of devotion and involvement to the work and worship of the church demonstrate such an attitude about the church? Which is more disheartening...one who teaches the error or one who denies the error but lives it?

A Christian lady asked her neighbor to attend a gospel meeting with her. The neighbor said neither "yes" nor "no." He said that he and his wife could not attend church because of her allergies! Apparently, the perfumes of those attending so bothered her that she could not go to a house of worship. He conceded the awfulness of her situation, but he was confident God would overlook their lack of attendance.

This same sister, who knows and loves that couple, had bumped into her sneezy neighbor countless times in the grocery and department stores. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary with a party they hosted in their home. Many guests attended, most of whom presumably "attended church" somewhere. The sister attended, too, and sorrowfully reported that almost every guest wore perfume. Fortunately, the neighbor survived the party.

Few excuses will outdo getting sick *from* church. Yet, some of the excuses we give are equally flimsy, if more trite. Truly, God will judge each individual for only He knows the heart and the circumstances (cf. Rom. 8:33-34; Heb. 4:12). As that is so, how often is He snubbed and insulted by Christians who *willfully* intend to miss the assemblies? What does He think of the chronic excuser, who attempts to justify "skipping church" with horribly poor rationale?

True Christians truly seek the Kingdom of God first (Mat. 6:33). Spiritually living Christians hunger for each opportunity to worship God and fellowship with other Christians (cf. Psa. 95:6; Mat. 5:6; Acts 12:12; etc.). Cross-centered saints do not look for "reasons" to miss worship and Bible study with other saints! It is incongruous to think of a spiritual-minded person (cf. 1 Pet. 2:5) battling with the decision (?) of whether or not to attend. May each of us develop the yearning of David and say, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psa. 122:1).

-Selected-

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 2, 2019

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Bryant Siegel  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

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

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

**Sunday Evening:** Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson  
P.M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Justin Guess

**Open/Close Building:** Randles

**Sound System:** Scott DeDear

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Prepare Communion:** Randles

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The kids summer series "God's Amazing Design" begins Wednesday, June 5th. Plan on bringing your kids and grandkids to this exciting program for 4 years through 6th grade. There will be lots of activities about God's fantastic creation! For more information there is a flyer in the foyer or see Ron White.

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TODAY! There will be a graduation reception for Anthony Scherffius after evening worship. There will be a cake and a basket for cards.



## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Don Blackwell and his wife, Sheri, who are recovering from a four wheeler accident.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2: Graduation Reception for Anthony Scherffius.  
June 5: Wednesday Adult Summer Series: The New Testament Church. Speaker is Justin Guess.  
June 8: GEMS meeting  
June 12: Adult Summer Series:- Mark FitzSimmons  
June 19: Adult Summer Series:- Ronnie Scherffius  
June 22: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Yvonne Smith's 6:30 pm -8:00 pm at River Place, Thomaston  
June 26: Adult Summer Series-Matt Gibson  
July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series

## AREA EVENTS

June 9: Camp Hensel begins  
June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest  
July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Myra FitzSimmons, Carlie Mabe (1); Abigail Pawlik, Valerie Ramsey (2), Janice FitzSimmons (3); Draven Garcia (8)

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TODAY! Students will be moving up to their new class grade or level.

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Mickey Tissue  
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 May 26, 2019

Bible Class.....	105
A.M. Worship.....	144
P.M. Worship.....	88
Wednesday Bible Study.....	57

Offering      \$4,013

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

**Luke 19-Luke 24**



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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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