

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 19

Problems With Truth *The Revealing Nature Of Truth* Ronnie Scherffius

We live in a country that is known for its freedoms and rights. Liberty! What a beautiful word!! One of the most cherished and guarded rights in our country is the *right to privacy*. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees privacy of beliefs, the Third Amendment our privacy of the home, the Fourth Amendment provides for privacy against unreasonable searches, and the Fifth Amendment protects against self-incrimination (which in turn protects the privacy of personal information). The right to privacy is most often cited in the *Due Process Clause* of the 14th Amendment, which states:

“No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” [livescience.com/37398-right-to-privacy.html]

The point is this - as citizens of the United States of America we are conditioned to privacy. “What I do is my business and no one else has to the right to know my business!” Because of our history of privacy rights and our strong feelings for liberty, it should be no surprise that many people have a problem with the revealing nature of truth.

Truth reveals man’s responsibilities to God.

The Bible is God’s revelation to man. Within its pages God reveals man’s origin, state, responsibilities, and his destiny. One purpose of God’s revelation is to reveal to man what sin is: “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God

forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.” (Rom. 7:7). John wrote: “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.” (1 John 2:1).

Many wish to go through life with their head in the sand. The hope is, “The less I know the less responsibilities I will have.” In some aspects of this life such a principle may hold true, but none should hope to plead ignorance of their responsibilities to God. Paul instructed the Athenians, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). The apostle further admonished the Corinthians, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10). At Christ’s return, all humanity will appear before the judgment seat of God and be required to give an accounting of their life (Mt. 25:31:ff). Because truth reveals to man his responsibilities and sets forth consequences for failing to fulfill his responsibilities, many have a problem with truth.

Truth reveals what we truly are. Many seek to live according to their own standard. They judge themselves to be righteous based on manmade traditions (Mt.15:1-2) or even their own moral goodness. Paul declared: “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” (2 Cor. 10:12). In the light of truth, we see ourselves for what we truly are: incapable of guiding ourselves (Jer. 10:23); incapable of saving ourselves (Mt.

26:39); incomplete (2 Tim. 3:16-17); in sin and lost (John 8:32). To the church at Laodicea Jesus said: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see**" (Rev. 3:15-18). We tend to look at ourselves through rose colored glasses, but looking through the prism of truth we see what we truly are. Because of this many have a problem with truth.

Another characteristic of truth is its *impartial* nature. We will consider this next week as we conclude our study.

What Does The "Sunday Morning Only" Christian Miss?

It is an eclectic club. Some of its members have only ever come one service per week, whose perceivable spiritual progress has been hard to measure. Others, perhaps more tragically, have waned from greater faithfulness in the past to the more tepid attitude toward the assemblies at which God is always present. The Bible makes it clear that those who fail to put Christ first have put something in that place. This is an unenviable position to be in. Yet, these who neglect faithful attendance deprive themselves of so much.

- **They miss information.** Bible classes, sermons, table talks, and mid-week devotional talks all help increase our knowledge and strengthen our conviction in what we already know. This information is like a flashlight for the journey in a dark, dark world (Ps. 119:105). If we take heed to that word, we do well (2 Pet. 1:19). To identify the enemy, you must know all about him.

- **They miss association.** The people dearest to God are there. Christ, our Savior, friend, older brother, King, Shepherd, Door, and Mediator, is there. The earliest Christians were steadfast in fellowship with each other, a fellowship contextually shown to be spiritual in nature (Acts 2:42). Paul reminds us we should prefer one another, something we fail to show when we give preference to some other place and event (Rom. 12:10).

- **They miss inspiration.** We need our spirits lifted. Others need us to lift their spirits, too (Heb. 10:24; cf. Phil. 2:3-4). In worship we can get our spiritual batteries charged. Coming together helps us each face the world. We are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4:23-24). The assemblies aid us in this.

- **They miss provocation.** Often, we do things we know we should not do. As such, we need to be provoked or stimulated to do what we already know is right (Heb. 10:24). At the assemblies, we lift each other up and hold each other's hands in our common life (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14).

- **They miss edification.** We have a responsibility to be here and build up other Christians. Remember, love edifies (1 Cor. 8:1). You cannot do that as well from a remote location. We are to use our abilities to help perfect the saints, to work in ministry, and to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12). That's a "done together" activity in which those withholding their presence cannot engage.

- **They miss immunization.** The world is infected with sin and it is often hard to live for Christ (cf. 1 John 5:19). We can and do "inject" ourselves with strength at every service, an injection that will help us fight off the cancer of sin (cf. Jer. 7:18). Attending all the services strengthens our spiritual health (Ps. 42:11). Who thinks he or she is better equipped to fight alone than with the collective help of the church as well as the special strength available as by God's design when we assemble together?

- **They miss jubilation.** There is nothing as seemingly miserable as the Christian who feels that it is his "duty" to come to the services (look at David -Ps. 122:1). It is a shame that "S-M-O" Christians miss the excitement of baptisms and others who come forward for prayers, the encouragement of seeing new Christians participate in worship or young people demonstrating their faith, and the example of others whose words, actions, and attitudes make us glad we are Christians. Few whose hearts and minds have been fully engaged in an assembly will walk away regretting it or being more depressed than when they arrived.

- **They miss obligation.** We are mutually accountable (Rom. 1:14; Heb. 3:13; Col. 3:13; etc.). We are indebted to God (Rom. 8:12). We are commanded by Him to come together (Heb. 10:25). None of these obligations comes with an expiration date. We consider those who shirk their obligations to be irresponsible. What obligation outweighs the one laid upon us by the Lord?

The many, many principles of scripture lead to an unavoidable conclusion. We should want to be together with Christ and His people at every opportunity. If we do not want this enough to make it happen, maybe something is terribly wrong with our "affections" (cf. Col. 3:1-2).

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 12, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

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

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Dolan

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.

The Summer Youth Series will begin Wednesday, June 5th. If you would like to help bring snacks for the youth, there is a sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Don Blackwell and his wife, Sheri, were in a four wheeler accident last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12: Jr/Sr High devotional at the home of Pat & Josha Gooch. Girls bring drinks and boys bring deserts.

June 2: Graduation Reception for Anthony Scherffius.
June 5: Wednesday Adult Summer Series: The New Testament Church. Speaker is Justin Guess.

AREA EVENTS

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Millie Jamison (13)

Happy Anniversary: Don & Debbie Lynn (17)

There will be a graduation reception for Anthony Scherffius on Sunday, June 2, after evening worship. There will be a cake and a basket for cards.



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 5, 2019

Bible Class.....	91
A.M. Worship.....	132
P.M. Worship.....	85
Wednesday Bible Study.....	80

Offering \$4,822

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Luke 1-Luke 6



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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