

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

May 5, 2019

Issue 18

## Problems With Truth *The Restrictive Nature Of Truth* Ronnie Scherffius

Truth is absolute. There is no middle ground. A thing either is true or it is not true. This absolute nature of truth disallows compromise, reveals who we truly are, and will not allow injustices. These characteristics of truth serve as a basis for the problems that many people have with truth. Let's note each of these in some detail.

Man has a problem with absolute truth because truth is **restrictive in nature**. The world in which we live is one of acceptance and tolerance. Sadly, this characteristic has affected the church. Failing to stand within the boundaries of truth many accept and tolerate sin within the boundaries God has established. Some presumptuously and arbitrarily expand God's boundaries to be "more inclusive." Truth will not allow for such compromise.

The absolute nature of truth restricts our words, deeds, and with whom we may have fellowship. The idea that the church collectively or Christians individually may have Christian fellowship with the sectarian world and adopt Protestant or Catholic traditions and practices wholly violates Scripture:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple

of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

Neither the church collectively nor Christians individually may compromise with the traditions and doctrines of men with impunity. The Hebrews writer affirmed: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).

Furthermore, truth does not allow for compromise with Christian brethren who have fallen into error. Paul wrote: "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11). It is unfortunate, but many of our own brethren willingly and joyfully accept compromise with error: women in leadership roles in the church (1 Tim. 2:12); fellowship with those in adulterous marriages (Mt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:10-16); unqualified leadership (1 Tim. 3:1-13); instruments of music or other unauthorized innovations

in worship (Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16-17). While the traditions and doctrines of men may allow for compromise with societal fads and religious fashions truth is restrictive. The apostle Paul instructed that we are not to have fellowship with our brethren who choose not to walk in the light (2 Thess. 3:6, 14; cf. 1 Jn. 1:5-7).

The words of the ancient prophet are worthy to be considered here: “Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:1-3). Amos was highlighting that Israel was not walking as God would have them to walk. Because of this God was not walking with them! They had departed. They needed to return. Unless they chose to return (on His terms!) they would face certain destruction (Amos 2:6). Can the faithful of God walk together with their brethren who have fallen into error? Can the faithful of God be in fellowship with those from whom God has withdrawn His fellowship? Can the faithful of God compromise with compromisers and remain faithful in God’s eyes? No! Why? The restrictive nature of truth simply will not allow it.

In our next study we will highlight the revealing and impartial natures of truth.

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### **Speaking What Must Be Heard**

In World War I, German intelligence was able to steal American plans at will. Tapping enemy lines was extremely easy, especially at night. Faced with such a dilemma, a regiment full of Choctaw Indians thought of a potential solution. The commander inquired into how many Choctaws knew their mother tongue. The men hesitated. The first English word some of them had learned was “soap.” In basic training, they were threatened with having their mouths washed out if caught speaking their native language. Now, their regimental leaders wanted them to speak it.

The Choctaws were dispersed among the various divisions and attached to communications. From that point to the end of the war, all important orders were passed along in Choctaw. The Germans were stymied and finally caught off guard by the Americans’ war plans (from PBS’ American Experience: The Great War, Episode 3).

Today, our society does not want to hear us speak the message of Christ. Many find it offensive and restricting. They may even put great pressure on us to keep quiet. But, we cannot. These have been taken captive by the devil to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26). Especially when someone sees the spiritual crisis in his or her life, there will be a desperate desire for an answer. Where will they turn? If they have heard us speak of Christ and His way, they may need us to communicate the most important message ever spoken. Don’t keep quiet about Jesus, especially given the dire danger in this spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5). God is counting on us to speak for Him, and so is a lost and dying world! Keep sharing Him.

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### **Singing Workshop—Saturday, May 11 with Andy Baker**

9am—Practical Considerations for the Song Leader

10:15am—Working on your Swing  
(Conducting Patterns/Time Signatures)

12pm— Lunch

1:15pm— Pitching it in the Wheelhouse

2:45pm— Leading So People Will Follow

3:45pm— Question & Answer

4:30pm to 6:30pm— Singing with Song Leaders-“Iron Sharpening Iron”

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 5, 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 Jobs

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

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Doug Jobs  
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Open/Close Building:**

**Sound System:** Will Burleson

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Prepare Communion:** Dolan

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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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There will be a singing workshop with Andy Baker on Saturday, May 11th from 9-6:30pm. There is a food sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.



## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Zane Harris, who broke his arm last week. James Prince, who's mother, Wanda Prince, passed away last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7: Last Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am  
May 11: Singing Workshop with Andy Baker 9am-6:30pm  
June 2: Graduation Reception for Anthony Scherffius.

## AREA EVENTS

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

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Ryan Stryker (5), Sherry Lynch (6), Luke FitzSimmons (10), Tre Cannady (11)

Happy Anniversary this week to: Steve & Letty Randle; Billy & Jackie York

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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 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 April 28, 2019

Bible Class.....	108
A.M. Worship.....	140
P.M. Worship.....	76
Wednesday Bible Study.....	84

Offering      \$3,931

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

**Mark 10-Mark 16**



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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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