

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

October 13, 2019

Issue 41

## Are You Worthy of Mention?

By: Ron White

Who were “Tryphena and Tryphosa?” Their names are near the tail end of Paul’s letter to Rome. The Apostle Paul asked recipients of that letter to “greet” them. What if Apostle Paul acknowledged you by name in a letter, wouldn’t you feel a sense of worth?

How many times does Paul tell the church in Rome to “Greet” or “Salute” someone there? At least sixteen times! Plus, the text includes greetings from about four more at Paul’s location.

We commonly cite Romans 16:16 because there we find the name posted on our church sign out front. All the churches of Christ salute you. But take note of the first part of that verse: Salute one another with a holy kiss.

A typical personal greeting in New Testament times included wishes for the Lord’s favor and peace to attend that person. Have we noticed how often New Testament letters invoke God’s grace and peace upon fellow believers?

Salute one another with a kiss of love. Peace be unto you all that are in Christ. (1 Pet. 5:14)

All the brethren salute you. Salute one another with a holy kiss. (1 Cor. 16:20)

Salute one another with a holy kiss. (2 Cor. 13:12)

In the Jewish synagogues where the genders were separated, men kissed men in a cheek

to cheek fashion, the women, women. Regarding kissing, “abuse of this custom led to its confinement to men with men and women with women and to its final abandonment” (*Apost. Const. ii. 57, 12*). “This apparently was an early Christian custom also. It was dropped because of charges made against the Christians by the pagans” (*A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament*).

“Salute all the brethren with a holy kiss.” (1 Thess. 5:26)

When on a vacation, you visit another congregation, and no one greets you. What is your estimation of that group? If they lack appreciation for brotherhood guests, do you leave wondering, “How can they grow?”

“Peace be unto thee. The friends salute thee. Salute the friends by name.” (3 Jn. 1:14)

Successful businesses commonly insure their patrons receive a friendly greeting. Quick food outlets might even teach employees to remember names of frequent customers. Welcome them by name. They are valuable. If a person among us fails to be noticed, senses no expression of worth from greetings, such a member might feel personally alienated, and suspect others might consider him somehow distasteful.

In Genesis 37:4, Joseph’s brothers were irritated with him. It is said of Joseph that “his brethren could not speak peaceably unto him.” They could not give him a friendly greeting, “Peace be to thee!” So they sold him out.

If we conclude as many others have, it is not their customary physical form (kissing) that's binding on us but a "holy" greeting, what then? Salute one another with heartfelt warmth that expresses peace, friendship and brotherly love. We have noted above, that such an outwardly expressed sentiment the New Testaments repeatedly commands. How could we miss it?

Perhaps it takes some effort to obey. But by way of comparison, how about foot washing? Really, washing dirt from a guest's feet? Humiliating! But recall, Jesus did it. We servants are not greater than our Lord (Jn. 13:12-17). Again, we might conclude as many others have, it is not "dirty feet provisions" that are binding on us, but Jesus' example commending a servant-like attitude.

Let us remember, each brother's or sister's soul has worth. Recognize each with a warm holy greeting.

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### **On The Run**

In 2002, Song Jiang escaped from prison. The Chinese police searched for years, but to no avail. Finally, in September, some 17 years later, they received some clues about Jiang's possible location. The problem was that it was located in a mountainous area thick with forests. He proved too hard to find in such terrain. Then the police decide to dispatch some drones. They noticed some blue colored steel and debris in a particular stop. The police trekked into the forest to this location and, at long last, found and captured Song Jiang ([BBC](#)).

Over time, there have been some incredibly infamous prison escapes. In 1962, three men escaped from Alcatraz, the prison many thought to be impossible to escape from. In 1971, Frank Abagnale, the famous conman, escaped from prison by convincing guards he was an undercover prison inspector. In 1977, convicted murderer James Robert Jones escaped from prison and eluded the police for 37 years thereafter. In 2015, David Sweat and Richard Matt escaped a New York maximum-security correctional facility by making

their way into the main ductwork and cutting their way out with power tools.

While all of these people, and certainly many others, escaped their punishment for a time, they all have one thing in common – they never eluded God. The Lord wasn't fooled. The Almighty never lost track of their whereabouts. The Holy One was never, for even a single second, unaware of their thoughts and actions.

Hebrews 4:13 says it plainly, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

While no escaped convict has ever eluded God, let's not be so quick to point the finger. You've never escaped God either. Nor have I. No one and nothing is hiding from God's all-seeing eyes. Everything we do, say, and think is open and exposed before our almighty God. There are no secrets. There is no escape. But there will most certainly be a day when we will answer for our deeds (Matthew 25:31-46; 16:27; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; etc). It's possible to elude man. It's not possible to elude God. So we can either face the Lord now, by our free will, and seek His grace and mercy (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-7; etc), or we can be forced to bow the knee at the judgment (Philippians 2:9-11).

God so badly wants us to turn back to Him. His open, loving arms are waiting to welcome us to Him (Luke 15:20). But they won't always stay open.

Let's stop running. Let's stop hiding. Let's "fear God and keep His commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

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## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 13, 2019

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

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

Bread: Doug Jobs  
Fruit of the Vine: Mark FitzSimmons  
Offering: Don Lynn  
Assist: Scott DeDear, Kirk FitzSimmons, Steve Randle

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

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: James Cammock  
P.M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius  
Sun. P.M.: Mike McVey  
Wednesday: Larry Nuckels

### **Ushers:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Wednesday Devotional:**

Doug Jobs

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

Will Burleson

### **Sound System:**

Bryant Siegel

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Prepare Communion:**

Scherffius

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### SAVE THE DATE!

MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo will be November 10-13. There will be a potluck luncheon after the morning services on Sunday, November 10th and a 1pm service in lieu of the 5pm service. Please make plans to attend and bring a visitor.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Mike McVey, who had a procedure last week in Houston.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 15,22,29: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class  
Oct. 13: GEMS meeting @ 3:30pm  
Oct. 20: Baby shower for Emily Cammock @ 2pm at the home of Rita Davenport  
Oct. 26: Jr/Sr high youth devotional at the Jobs @ 6pm  
Oct. 27: Trunk or Treat  
Nov. 10-13: MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo.

## AREA EVENTS

Oct. 18-20: Recharge Youth conference @ Weber Rd.  
Oct. 20-24: Gospel meeting with Patrick Hammack @ Goliad  
Nov. 9: Bible Bowl @ Weber church of Christ  
Nov. 9: Ladies' Day @ SW church of Christ in Austin. Speaker is Carlie Bond.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Clark Withers (14); Pam Clifton (15); Mickey DeDear, Debra Sanchez (19)

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
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 October 6, 2019

Bible Class.....	103
A.M. Worship.....	125
P.M. Worship.....	95
Wednesday Bible Study.....	72

Offering      \$4,254

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

### Revelation 4-13



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## SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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