

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

October 20, 2019

Issue 42

## Looking Upon Jesus

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; <sup>36</sup>And **looking upon Jesus** as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!" (Jn 1:29-36)

John the Baptist spent much of his life "looking upon" the Christ either literally or in meditation of the law and the prophets. John saw Jesus for what He was — the sacrificial Lamb of God for all of mankind. However, not all who looked upon Jesus saw Him in the same light. A look at the inspired record provides a very intimate view into the hearts and minds of men as to what they saw when "looking upon Jesus."

**The religious leaders saw Jesus as the object of envy and hatred.** Pilate asked, "Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?" (Mt. 27:17). In a parenthetical statement Matthew adds, "For he knew that for envy they had delivered him" (18). One reason for such envy was Jesus exposing the hypocrisy and error in their lives and traditions: "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil" (John 7:7). Jesus continually exposed these "blind leaders of the blind" (Mt. 15:14) by pointing out their traditions "transgressed the commandment of God" (Mt. 15:3); desire to be praised of men (Mt. 23:1-12); hindrance of others entering into the kingdom (Mt. 23:13; cf. Jn. 12:42-43); extorting and profiting financially in the name of God (Mt. 23:14); failure to obey all of God's law (Mt. 23:25-26); religious insincerity (Mt. 23:27-28).

The Jewish leaders also hated Jesus because they lost their influence over the people: "Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him" (Jn. 12:19). The resurrection of Lazarus caused an increase of Jesus' popularity and excited the envy and hatred of the Jews to conspiracy: "Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we for this man doeth many miracles? If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation...from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death" (John 11:47-48, 53). So intense was the situation that from that point Jesus "walked no more openly among the Jews" (Jn. 11:54).

**The Jewish populace saw Jesus as the restorer of the Davidic kingdom on earth.** Jesus came as the prophesied Son of David who would build a house for the Lord and reign upon the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:12ff). The prophets affirmed the Messiah would build again the tabernacle of David (Amos 9:8), receive a kingdom and dominion over all nations that would never fail (Dan. 7:13ff). These prophecies were understood by the Jews to refer to an earthly kingdom. They perceived the Messiah as the restorer of Israel to the prominence enjoyed under David and Solomon. They expected and desired a kingdom and rule that would bring glory to Israel among all the nations. Even the apostles, while Jesus was upon the earth failed fully to understand the nature of Christ's

kingdom (Acts 1:6ff). Many today look upon Jesus with expectations of an earthly kingdom and fail to see Jesus as the King of kings *now*.

**The Romans looked upon Jesus with indifference and apathy.** Among the Jewish population one was either persuaded Jesus was the Messiah or they were antagonistic to His cause. This was not so among the Gentile nations. To the Romans, Jesus was simply another zealot. Pilate's indifference was expressed by his actions as he "washed his hands" (Mt. 27:24). Apathy for Christ's cause among the Gentiles was evident by Gallio's decision: "I will be no judge of such matters" (Acts 18:15); Festus' mockery of Paul: "much learning doth make thee mad" (Acts 26:24), and King Agrippa's sarcastic response: "Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28). Or as the ASV translates, "With but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian." Indifference toward Jesus is the attitude of many in the world today: the Bible is simply another book; Christianity another world religion; Jesus another religious figure.

**The apostles looked upon Jesus and saw the Christ, the Son of the living God.** Walking with Jesus they heard the power of His word and saw the confirmation of those words by many miraculous works. In such an intimate setting they were impressed with His character, integrity, and supreme moral life. Looking upon Jesus so closely and personally they were convinced that he was "the Christ, the son of the living God" (Mt. 16:17). Like the apostles we are able to look upon Jesus through the inspired writings contained in the gospels. We can walk and talk with Jesus and bear witness to His miraculous works and supreme moral life. From the written word we hear that same powerful word that in some stirred faith and others envy and hatred. Through a reading of these divinely inspired historical accounts of the life of Christ, we can look upon Jesus and be assured that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Have you read the precious accounts of the life of Christ lately? What do you see when you "look upon Jesus?"

## The Slothful Sluggard

Jack McNiel 03'

The Biblical word I would like to discuss today is "Sluggard." The Hebrew word thus translated is found twelve times in the Book of Proverbs. Five times it is translated "sluggard" and the other seven times it is translated "slothful." The English words sluggard and slothful both indicate slowness of movement. Slothful is defined as, "habitual disinclination to exertion; indolence; laziness..." (Dictionary.com) and Sluggard describes a person, "who is habitually inactive or lazy..." (Dictionary.com). A sluggard can simply be called a slothful person. Proverbs uses these terms numerous times to encourage the reader to become active and even proactive in every aspect of their lives and especially to be so in regard to their spiritual lives.

A summary of how the Hebrew word is used in Proverbs demonstrates the characteristics of the slothful sluggard.

- The slothful sluggard refuses to labor. Proverbs 21:25 and 24:30-31.
- The slothful sluggard makes excuses for not doing anything: "There's a lion!" (Proverbs 22:13; 26:13) "It's too cold!" (Proverbs 20:4)
- These lame excuses and flat refusal to do anything only makes the slothful sluggard's life more difficult. His way is fraught with thorns that impede him. (Proverbs 15:19)
- The slothful sluggard is like a man who sleeps all the time, but gets no rest. (Proverbs 6:9; 26:14)
- Finally, the slothful sluggard is unreliable and brings only bitterness to those who would attempt to rely upon him. (Proverbs 10:26)

All of this is why, Solomon encouraged the slothful sluggard to look to or imitate the ant. (Proverbs 6:6-11). The ant may be small, but it works hard and is proactive with regard to seeing to its needs. A slothful sluggard, both spiritually and physically is the very opposite of what a Christian ought to be.

*"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)*

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ..."(Colossians 3:23-24)*

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 20, 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: Pat Gooch  
P.M. Closing: Don Lynn

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran  
Sun. P.M.: Mike McVey  
Wednesday: Anthony Scherffius

### **Ushers:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Wednesday Devotional:**

Kevin Sheeran

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

Will Burleson

### **Sound System:**

Bryant Siegel

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

### **Prepare Communion:**

Scherffius

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### Baby Shower

Ladies are invited to a baby shower for Emily Cammock today from 2-3:30pm at the home of Rita Davenport, 205 Amberglow Court.

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TODAY! There will be a Men's meeting at 3pm.

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Sign up sheet to help knock on doors for our upcoming Gospel meeting is in the foyer. Sign up sheet to provide food for those knocking doors is in the hallway.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please continue to pray for the shut ins and members who are ill.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 22,29: Men's and Ladies' Bible Class  
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. 9: Men's Work Day and Cook Out @ 8am  
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: Corinne Flonnory (20); Pam Stryker (22), Desmon Flonnory, Mary Jo White (24)

Happy Anniversary: Ronnie & Athena Scherffius (21)

## BAPTISM

We rejoice in the recent baptism of Richard Hill.

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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 13, 2019

Bible Class.....102  
A.M. Worship.....118  
P.M. Worship.....90  
Wednesday Bible Study.....83

Offering      \$3,456

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

**Revelation 14-22**



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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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## GO PAPERLESS!

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