

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

September 1, 2019

Issue 35

## *SOUND DOCTRINE*

1 Timothy 6:3-5

By: Ronnie Scherffius

A general theme woven throughout Paul's first letter to Timothy is sound doctrine. At least ten times Paul emphasizes soundness of teaching and faithfulness to the doctrine of Christ (1:3, 10; 4:6, 11; 5:7, 21; 6:2-3, 13-14, 17, 20). The apostle further reinforces this theme with such phrases as "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1:3); "These things command and teach" (4:11); "these things give in charge" (5:7); "These things teach and exhort" (6:2). In the beginning of the sixth chapter Paul addresses the conduct and attitude of Christian slaves toward their masters. By their conduct, the doctrine of God will either be slandered or defended. Let's note Paul's admonition and see what lessons we can draw from our text.

### ***Sound Doctrine Defended***

That none may find occasion to blaspheme the authority and doctrine of God, Christian slaves were to treat their masters with the highest degree of dignity (6:1). Slaves whose masters were also brothers in Christ were not to hold them in contempt but rather as a brother faithful to sound doctrine and beloved of God (6:2).

To our twenty-first century minds Christians owning slaves is difficult to comprehend. Yet imagine a man serving as a shepherd over the flock of God and also a master to one of the flock. Consider the circumstances of a man faithfully and forcefully preaching the gospel to the church on the Lord's day only to return home as a slave to a family who are

members of the church. Such relationships would certainly be difficult to navigate without the guidance and direction of sound doctrine.

Furthermore, picture how the master would kindly respond, not only to the Christian slave but also to the wholesome words of Jesus Christ which dictated such a peaceful and unpretentious attitude. Moreover, how greatly impressed would an observing world be seeing one in such a lowly position standing on equal footing in a life serving God. By following such apostolic admonitions Christian slaves powerfully defend sound doctrine.

### ***Sound Doctrine Defined***

Paul defines sound doctrine and draws a line in the sand that exposes the true heart and character of any who would stand in opposition to the doctrine of God: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness" (1 Tim. 6:3). Here is the line. Here is the bar. Here is the standard to which all men are to conform and by which all men are to be measured.

First, Paul defines sound doctrine as the "wholesome words" of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul uses the same terminology in another letter to Timothy speaking of those who "will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:3), and to Titus speaking both of sound doctrine (Titus 1:9; 2:1) and of those who are "sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13; 2:2). The Greek word translated "wholesome" in our text was

used by the ancient Greeks in the sense of one's health either mentally or physically. Not surprisingly we find the term in Luke twice of those who are whole or healthy (Lk. 5:31; 5:10) and once of the prodigal son who returned "safe and sound" (Lk. 15:27). *Wholesome* does not refer to the spiritual health of the soul but to the words themselves which are healthy or sound as opposed to corrupt. Peter spoke of sound doctrine as "sincere milk" or "spiritual milk which is without guile" (2 Pt. 2:2). David sang of the wholesome words of God that "convert the soul, make wise the simple, rejoice the heart, enlighten the eyes, are more desirable than gold, and are sweeter than honey" (Ps. 19:7-10).

Second, Paul defines sound doctrine as "the doctrine which is according to godliness." The Greek term translated godliness is found fifteen times in the New Testament. Paul employs it nine times in his letters to Timothy (1 Tim. 2:2; 3:16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5; 6:6, 11; 2 Tim. 3:5). The doctrine that is "according to godliness" is the doctrine that promotes godliness. That is, the doctrine that promotes reverence and respect toward God.

Finally, it must be emphasized that these words are not limited only to Paul's admonition regarding Christian slaves. The Greek word translated "teach otherwise" is found in only one other passage of Scripture, which passage serves to bookend this letter to Timothy. "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine**" (1 Tim 1:3). In the opening of this letter Paul instructs Timothy to charge the saints not to teach contrary to sound doctrine. The apostle then proceeds to note those things which are according to sound doctrine. Then as he draws his letter to a conclusion he points Timothy back to his opening charge to teach only sound doctrine — that doctrine that is healthy for the soul and promotes reverence toward God.

Next week we will note *sound doctrine despised* and *sound doctrine distinguished*.

## Every Day Is "New" With God

- We sing a new song (Ps. 40:3; Isa. 42:10; Rev. 5:9).
  - We gain new strength (Isa. 40:31).
  - We have a new name (Isa. 62:2; Rev. 2:17).
  - We have a new covenant (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8-9).
  - We have God's compassions which are new every morning (Lam. 3:23).
  - We have a new heart and a new spirit (Ezek. 36:26).
  - We observe a new commandment with each other (John 13:34).
  - We walk a new life (Rom. 6:4).
  - We are new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17).
  - We are part of that new man, united with all children of God (Eph. 2:15).
  - We have put on the new self (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
  - We have been given a new and living way (Heb. 10:20).
  - We are looking for new heavens and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13).
- We anticipate the day when Christ makes all things new (Rev. 21:5).

Even though these promises were made thousands of years ago, they are as fresh and bright today as they have ever been. Some help us overcome the guilt of our past. Others give us strength for the present. All of them give us hope for the future. We don't need "new truth," but so many of the truths of Scripture deserve our renewed dedication and attention. Try and put your arms around all the daily renewal our great God makes available to us.

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16).

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of September 1, 2019

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

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

Bread: Lupe Escojido  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Bryant Siegel  
Assist: Isaac Jobes, Manny Flonnory, Fred Scherffius

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

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson  
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran  
Sun. P.M.: Mike McVey  
Wednesday: Larry Nuckels

### **Ushers:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Mark FitzSimmons

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

**Sound System:** Curtis Scherffius

**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.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Donna Shannon's son, Dana, who was in a car accident last week. Carlie Bond's nephew, Audie, who passed away last week. Lupe Escojido's brother, Trino Escojido, who was in the hospital last week. Virginia Escojido's sister, Veronica Serenil, who is recovering from surgery.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 8: Men's business meeting @ 3pm  
Sept. 8: Jr/Sr. High Devotional at the building after evening services.  
Sept. 10, 17, 24: Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Class  
Sept. 14: GEMS meeting  
Nov. 10-13: MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo.

## AREA EVENTS

Sept. 3,9,16,23: Digging Deeper with Wayne Jones @ Odem church of Christ  
Sept. 7: Ladies' Day @ Portland church of Christ  
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio  
Oct. 18-20: Recharge Youth conference @ Weber Rd.  
Nov. 9: Bible Bowl @ Weber church of Christ

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Brant Jacobs (7)

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The annual Summer Youth Series Awards will be held immediately following Sunday evening services Sept. 22nd. After the awards there will be a congregational fellowship meal. Please bring a potluck dish.

## 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 August 24, 2019

Bible Class.....114  
A.M. Worship.....143  
P.M. Worship.....97  
Wednesday Bible Study.....82

Offering \$3,789

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

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

### Ephesians—Philippians



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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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