

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 32

The Power Of The Christ

By: Ronnie Scherffius

The power of the Christ to affect the lives of man is beyond understanding. No man lived so righteously (Jn. 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; Pt. 2:22), taught so powerfully (Mt. 7:28; Mk. 12:37; Lk. 4:22; Jn. 7:46), loved so perfectly (Mt. Mt. 5:43-48; Jn. 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:16) or offered more to man (Lk. 19:10; Jn. 1:29; Acts 4:12) than Jesus the Christ. One of the greatest examples of the power of the Christ to affect change in the lives of man is found in Luke's account of Jesus casting out the Legion (Lk. 8:26-40). The state of this man after the "many devils" went out of him provides for us a picture of the power of the Christ to affect our lives today.

"Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, **sitting** at the feet of Jesus, **clothed**, and in his **right mind**: and they were afraid." (Lk. 8:33-35)

The first great change noted in the man is **peace rather than restlessness**. Before the Legion is cast out we learn the man was often "*driven of the devil into the wilder-*

ness" (Lk. 8:29). Christ affected such a change in the man that he was no longer restless but sitting in peace at the feet of Jesus. Only through Christ will man find the "peace of God" that will keep our hearts and minds even in a world where uncertainties and anxieties press upon us from every side (Phil. 4:6-7). Only in the Christ and His kingdom will man who mourns because of his sin find peace and comfort (Mt. 5:4).

The second change affected by the power of the Christ is in the man's appearance. When we are first introduced to this man we discover that "he ware no clothes" (Lk. 8:27). Yet, after being delivered from his torturous captors we find him "clothed." This single word reveals much in contrast to his former state! First, the man's conduct and appearance are both characterized by modesty. He is no longer raging, so as to need to be "bound with chains and fetters" (8:29), but sitting peacefully **and** he is no longer naked but clothed. The power of the Christ affects both the mind of man (changing his attitude) and his conduct (changing his life outwardly). Paul noted that the saints at Rome "were the servants of sin" before their lives were affected by the Christ through obedience to His "pattern of doctrine" (Rom. 6:16-18; 1:16). An outward change affected by the Christ was most evidently witnessed in the lives of the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:9-11). And Peter noted that those who once "walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries" (1 Pt. 4:3) had by the power of the Christ "ceased from sin" (1 Pt. 4:1). Secondly,

because of his change in appearance and conduct he is no longer to be looked upon with shame. Shame is often associated with nakedness (Gen. 9:22-23; Isa. 20:4; 47:3). Sitting at peace and his nakedness clothed the man would neither be an embarrassment to others nor a shame to himself!

The third change affected by the power of the Christ in this man is demonstrated in his temperance—he was “in his right mind.” Control of mental faculties is essential to guarding against the adversary. Peter noted, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pt. 5:8). The absence of temperance leaves one open to the unrelenting attacks of the devil and his allies. In a parable, Jesus noted the severity of those who, knowing how they ought to conduct themselves but lacking in temperance and giving themselves over to worldly pleasures, will be appointed “his portion with the unbelievers” (Lk. 12:42-48).

The power of the Christ can change the world. The power of the Christ is revealed in the preaching of His gospel message. Thus, Paul would write “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). May we never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, either to teach it or to live it!

Young Christian, You Are Not the Church of Tomorrow! You Are the Church of Today!

I get tired of hearing people talk about you as being "the church of tomorrow." If you are a child of God, you're not the church of tomorrow. You're the church of today!

What can you, as a young Christian, do in the Lord's work?

1. Serve your brothers and sisters. Look for the "little" things you can do. What do you

have that can be used to serve others? Do you have time to visit someone? Do you have a car to give someone a ride? Do you have a phone to call someone who is discouraged?

2. Shepherd the flock. Formal leadership is to come from the elders, but informal leadership comes from all of us. The shepherds depend on those of us who act as "sheep dogs" looking out for those who are struggling, hurting, falling away, etc.

3. Teach the Word. You may not be asked to preach or to teach a class at church, but most teaching happens outside what we do during our assemblies. Invite your friends to study with you. Ask your non-Christian friends if they'll read the Bible with you.

What can you, as a young Christian, do for the Lord? The answer is anything God has placed before you to do! He's likely put more there before you than you might think. Don't underestimate what God can do with you.

-Selected-

"But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at my word."
Isaiah 66:2

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of August 9, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobs
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Ron White
A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wed. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: James Cammock

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

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.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Steve Randle and family in the loss of his mother this past week.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Roy Arnot (9); Will Burleson (11); Don Lynn (13); Scarlet Atkinson, Lupe Escojido (14); Marguerite Arnot (15)

Happy Anniversary: Mike and Julia Atkinson (14)

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
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 Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class— 7:00 PM
(Auditorium only)

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of August 2, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....48
A.M. Worship.....64
Online views during worship.....45
Wednesday Bible Class.....54

Offering week of August 2, 2020.....\$4,144.05

Reading for this week:

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."
Jeremiah 1:6-8

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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