



Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

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Issue 29

GOD IS NEEDED BY HIS OFFSPRING

By: Ronnie Scherffius

A sign in the local textile mill read, “When your thread becomes tangled, call the foreman.” A young woman was new on the job. Her thread became tangled and she thought, “I will just straighten this out myself, after all how difficult can it be.” She tried but in vain; the situation worsened. Finally, she called the foreman. “I did the best I could,” she told her boss. “No you didn’t” he quickly remarked. “To do the best, you should have called me.”

The above illustration is a very vivid and yet practical picture of both man’s relationship to God and man’s attempts to save himself independently from God. From the beginning of time man’s dependence upon God has been both established and well chronicled. Moses wrote that “in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is” (Ex 20:11). The crown of God’s creation was humanity. In fact, Luke referred to Adam, not simply as a created being but rather “the son of God” (Luke 3:38). For the crown of His creation, for His offspring, God provided all that was needed.

Placing man in Eden, God insured that all of man’s provisions were met. The beauty of nature, the need for nourishment, the gift of life and the ability to demonstrate his love for God was all provided for Adam in the Garden (Gen. 2:9) Even companionship, a desire inherent in man was wholly satisfied by his Creator (Gen. 2:18).

Nevertheless, seeking to do what seemed best in his eyes man followed his own path

and early discovered his dependence on God: “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **And the eyes of them both were opened**” (Gen. 3:6-7). Man’s eyes were opened, not simply to the fact that he was naked, neither was it purely to the power of temptation and the horribleness of sin, but also to his dependence upon God!

It is worthy to note and greatly to be emphasized that man’s dependence upon God is both physical and spiritual in nature. To the multitudes, Jesus declared that it is God who “**maketh his** sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt. 5:45). To all humanity, just and unjust, God provides ALL physical blessings. The Christian farmer does not receive the desired amount of rain on his crops while the unbelieving farmer loses his living to the scorching earth. The Christian mother does not spend her day happily passing the time without concern for the health and wellness of her child while the unbelieving mother diligently searches for cures and preventions of all manner of illnesses for her young. All things needful for physical life, growth, and good health are provided for all man by his Creator regardless of his spiritual state!

The spiritual blessings which God has provided for man, like those physical blessings are offered to *all* of His offspring. These

blessings, however, are obtained and maintained only by those who lovingly, humbly, willfully, and faithfully submit to God's will. Paul instructed the Ephesians that all spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). To be in Christ one must be "baptized into Jesus Christ" (Rom. 6:3); "born of the water and of the Spirit" (John 3:5); sanctified and cleansed "with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5:26); "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Pet. 1:23). Being born again man becomes the spiritual offspring of God and gains access to all spiritual blessings which God by His grace provides. Peter said: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3).

The inspired words of the sorrowful seer which highlight humanity's dependence upon his Creator still ring true today: "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Truly God is needed by His offspring!

Do Not Repay Evil for Evil

What do you do when you have been unjustly attacked by someone?

The book of Proverbs goes against what our natural instincts would tell us to do. We are told, "The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult." (Proverbs 12:16) "Hatred stirs up strife," says the wise man, "but love covers all offenses." (Proverbs 10:12)

Jesus told us to turn the other cheek and to love our enemies (Matthew 5:38-48). He told us to treat others the same way we would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). He taught us to forgive and to receive back the one who has wronged us as God has

forgiven us and received us back (Matthew 18:21-35).

That's risky though. Believing the best in people who have hurt you usually means being hurt again. Opening yourself up to those who have already hurt you almost guarantees that you're going to endure further suffering.

But isn't that what it means to "take up the cross?" Nails hurt. Forgiveness is painful. We are absorbing the pain and giving up the right to justice. Love and mercy involves great risk and comes at a high cost to our hearts.

Do it anyway. Open your heart. Overcome your fear. Crucify it. Remove the judgment. Invite your enemy back in.

Let us remove all pride from our hearts this day and help us to replace anger with compassion... to replace revenge with mercy.

-Selected-

Announcement Regarding Logo:

The men are exploring options for a logo for the congregation. This will aid us in having a polished uniform look as we present ourselves to other congregations and to the community. There are two logo designs on the table in the foyer. Please leave any feedback in the envelope by July 29th.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 19, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Lupe Escojido
Offering: James Cammock

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Dale Hill
A.M. Closing: Jeff Harris

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Mike McVey

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Will Burseson

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. The Family of Margie Medrano (mother in law of Jeremy Serenil, who is the son of Veronica and Eddie Serenil). Margie passed away last week. Sandra Marie, who's test came back negative for preleukemia and is having more testing.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Demon Flonnory II (22), Eddie Serenil (24)

Happy Anniversary: Dalton & Jenna Shafer (20)

MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE:

Ben and Millie Jamison have a new cell phone number: 361-484-6904.

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 July 12, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....53
A.M. Worship.....73
Online views during worship.....15
Wednesday Bible Class.....43

Offering week of July 12, 2020.....\$4,031

Reading for this week:

Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will pay the man back for what he has done."
Proverbs 24:29

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

GO PAPERLESS!

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