



Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

July 5, 2020

Issue 27

“Prove All Things; Hold Fast That Which Is Good”

By: Don Walker

The title of this article is a direct quote of the apostle Paul as it is found in the KJV. As is the case with every passage we study we do well to consider the passage in context. The two verses prior to this one set the context in the area of the miraculous gifts and specifically the giving of God’s revelation. Paul wrote, “Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying” 1) Thess. 5:19, 20). It is essential that we consider this context first as we examine the passage before us.

When we consider the church in the first century, their teaching was no different than ours, if we are teaching from the Bible and the Bible only. The major difference was not in what was revealed, but rather the largest difference was in how it was revealed. God’s message in the first century was given miraculously as men exercised the use of the gifts they received by the laying on of the apostles’ hands. Today, we have the completed product of their work in written form—in the 66 books that make up the two testaments that comprise the Bible.

However, just as it is true today, there were those who went out making claims to be proclaiming the message of God, yet they were not. Therefore, brethren were commanded “believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” 1) John 4:1).

The message must be examined, tried and tested and it must be consistent with the whole of what was taught by the inspired

men of the first century. Today we have the same responsibility to receive “the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”) Acts 17:11). Thus we see Paul’s admonition to “prove all things.” Paul wrote, And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. (Phil. 1:9, 10)

Notice that both knowledge of God’s will and personal discernment were essential to determine the fitness of a teaching for our approval. This was true in the first century where we see the miraculous employed to give God’s Revelation. It is also true today.

Once a doctrine had been taught and tested, the recipient was responsible, depending on the result of the “trying.” There was the responsibility to either reject or accept what had been proclaimed or taught. In the latter portion of 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Paul tells us that our approval must be very specific. In his words, we see that we must “Hold fast that which is good.” Not only must there be acceptance of that which is good, but we must also bring it in close to ourselves. Paul wrote to the Philippians, we must “approve” those things that have been proven excellent. It must become a part of our lives and our beings.

Things are no different today as far as our responsibility is concerned. Teaching must

be received with a ready mind, but it must also be put to the test by searching the Scriptures to see if these things are so. Upon proper validation, there must be an approving of the message in what we teach and what we live. If the message proves to be contrary to the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, then we are to reject it and put it far from us.

When all is said and done, the teaching is clear. We must put our approval on that which proves to be the Word of God and we must reject that which does not pass the test. May we strive for the nobility of the Bereans (Acts 17:11) as we study our Bibles more and more.

A Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created. Psalm 148:1-5

As the book of Psalms comes to a close, it ends with a crescendo of praise. Each of the last seven psalms calls for praise to Jehovah.

In this psalm the psalmist is calling on all of the created universe to praise the name of Jehovah. He calls all of the following to praise:

- the heavens
- angels

- hosts
- sun and moon
- stars
- earth
- sea creatures and all deeps
- fire and hail
- snow and mist
- stormy wind
- mountains and hills
- fruit trees and cedars
- beasts and livestock
- creeping things and flying birds
- kings and all peoples
- young men and maidens
- old men and children

From the largest star to the smallest molecule, from the farthest reaches of the universe to the ordinary plants and animals in your back yard, everything gives praise to its Maker.

Let us not forget, as long as we have life in us, let us all praise and give glory to our Creator!

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PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 5, 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: Steve Randle
A.M. Closing: Mark Jones

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Mike McVey
Wed. P.M.: Doug Jobs

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Lupe Escojido

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.

TODAY!

Ages 3-11 years old will begin their Sunday morning Bible Classes.

TODAY!

Men's Meeting at the building at 1pm.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Sandra Marie, who had medical testing last week. Millie Jamison who is recovering from a broken foot. Margie Medrano, Mother-in-law of Jeremy Serenil (Son of Veronica and Eddie Serenil), who is in ICU who is in need of heart surgery, but is very weak. Eddie Serenil, who responded to the invitation last week.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Leon Morales, Scott DeDear (2)

FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

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.

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 (TEMPORARILY)

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 June 28, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....50
A.M. Worship.....73
Online views during worship.....5
Wednesday Bible Class.....51

Offering week of June 28, 2020.....\$2,829

Reading for this week: Praise the Lord!
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praise him in the heights!
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praise him, all his hosts!
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created.
Psalm 148:1-5

SUPPORTED WORKS

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

GO PAPERLESS!

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