

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

June 28, 2020

Issue 26

## Be Ye Holy

By: Ronnie Scherffius

As Christians, we are to be a people characterized by holiness. Peter wrote:

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Pt. 2:5)

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Pt. 2:9)

Paul wrote of the body of Christians as “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy** and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27). But what does it mean *to be holy*? And what, in fact, is the meaning of *holy*? Three words used by Paul help us to understand the concept of *being holy* or *holiness*. Before we consider these, we should define two terms of importance to our study: holy and sanctify.

Holy is from the Greek word *hagiosis* (hag-ee-os). In a religious sense holy means *sacred* (Strong’s) but in a moral sense we should understand it to mean *pure*, *sinless* or *upright*. (Thayer) In order that we might be a *holy* people we must first be sanctified. Sanctify is from the Greek *hagiazō* (hag-ee-ad-zō) - note the similarity of spelling in the Greek words. Whereas *being holy* is to be pure, sin-

less or upright; *to sanctify* is “to separate from things profane and dedicate to God” or “to purify.” Simply put, sanctification is the means by which one is made to be holy. We are sanctified (made to be holy) “through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb. 10:10). Therefore, Paul wrote that Christ “gave himself” for the church that “he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:26; cf. Jn. 3:5).

Understanding that we are *sanctified* by the blood of Christ, and that being sanctified we are made *to be holy* let us note three words that truly demonstrate the character of holiness. First, Paul noted that holiness is characterized as “not having spot.” The picture painted by the Greek term translated *spot* is simply *a stain*. Figuratively, the word may be used of disgrace or of a defect when noting a moral fault. (Thayer) A second characteristic of holiness is not having “wrinkle.” This Greek word is found only here in the New Testament. The image to be seen in this word would be a wrinkle on a beautiful cloth that draws all attention away from the otherwise faultless garment. The third and final characteristic of holiness highlighted by the apostle is “without blemish.” The picture set forth in this character of holiness is “freedom from faultiness.” Morally and ethically the idea is of one who is *unblameable* (cf. Col 1:22; 1 Thess. 3:13). In the Revelation of John, we read of “the hundred and forty and four thousand” who are “**without fault** before the throne of God” (14:5).

As Christians we are to be holy before God. We are to be holy because our Father is holy (1 Pt. 1:16). We are to be holy because the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29) that redeemed us is holy - "without blemish and without spot" (1 Pt. 1:18). To live a holy life, we must remain pure and undefiled from the world and follow faithfully Jesus Christ (cf. Rev. 14:4). Paul spoke of the Christian life as walking as "the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24) — walking in honesty (25), sobriety (26-27), integrity and generosity (28), purity (29) and loyalty (30). May we ever strive to be a people characterized by true holiness.

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### **Knowing God Through Meditation On His Word**

May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
Psalm 104:34

What is meditation? How do we exercise it? And how does it draw us closer to God?

True biblical meditation is the contemplation of thoughts about God, and the chief way we know about God is through his Word.

"...but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night."  
Psalm 1:2

"I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways."  
Psalm 119:15

"Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day."  
Psalm 119:97

"I have more understanding than all my  
teachers,

for your testimonies are my meditation."  
Psalm 119:99

Since biblical meditation depends on knowledge of God's Word, we must be regularly reading the Bible. I would encourage you to read with pen and paper in hand. Note key passages that are really speaking to you as you read and write them down. Memorize them. Hide them deep in your heart so you can truly meditate on them.

Meditation helps us draw closer to God like few other disciplines because we're focusing on God's Words in a very intimate and personal way. We often read too quickly. We are in a hurry to check our Bible reading off of our "to do" list. Meditation focuses our heart. It slows us down and allows God's Word to truly penetrate our souls.

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Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items only: Cereal and napkins. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway. The truck will be here to pick up August 18-20.

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## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 28, 2020

\*\*subject to change\*\*

### Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: James Cammock  
Fruit of the Vine: James Cammock  
Offering: Bryce Dolan

### Prayer

A.M. Opening: Larry Nuckels  
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson

### Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Ron White

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

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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.

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**\*\*The Junior/Senior High Students will no longer be meeting in the fellowship hall for Wednesday Bible Class. They will be joining the adult Bible Class in the big auditorium.**

**Sunday mornings, the Junior/Senior High Students will have a Bible Class in the fellowship hall at 9am.**

**As of right now, there are no younger children's classes on Sunday morning or Wednesday night and no Sunday evening Service.\*\***

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Peggy Matlock (28); Zane Harris (29); Laura Purswell (30)

Happy Anniversary: Harvey & Della Rampley (28)

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**Sermons are available on our website [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org) under Resources.**

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

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## 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  
(Jr. High/High School & Auditorium only)  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Class— 7:00 PM  
(Auditorium only)

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 21, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....57  
A.M. Worship.....103  
Online views during worship.....16  
Wednesday Bible Class.....51

Offering week of June 21, 2020.....\$4,340

## Reading for this week:

May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
Psalm 104:34

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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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Email us at [midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)  
To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox  
or visit [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

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