

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

March 1, 2020

Issue 9

What Does My Family Owe The Church?

By: Bill Burke

Certainly the concepts of sacrifice and duty seem odd to a culture that often asks, “What’s in it for me?” Even among God’s people, as it relates to loyalty and service to the local church of Christ, the attitude of “meet my needs or else...” is found far too often. Consumerism has had a profound effect upon Christendom and the church. When people begin to search for a church home seldom do they look for the place where the truth is prized and where they can do the most work and serve to the greatest degree.

Rather, like shopping for a new car, they go in search of what they consider to be the best deal. Does the congregation provide a good youth program? Is there a nursery where the young ones can be dropped off should they become too unruly? Is there a singles class? Are there plenty of programs, classes and fellowship opportunities? What time do you start? Is the preacher young or old? Does he preach lengthy sermons or short devotionals? The Christian consumer asks these questions as he goes about looking for a place that has the most perks. And, should he decide to settle down, the Lord forbid that he becomes the least bit dissatisfied, because if he does, then the search will begin again.

Some of the above questions are important as one begins to look for a local body of people with whom to worship (John 4:24). However, the questions mentioned that are valid should be secondary to others of greater importance. At his inaugural ad-

dress, John F. Kennedy made the statement, “Ask not what your country can do for you—Ask what you can do for your country.” This idea is at the heart of what folks need to consider when they search for a congregational home. When looking for a place to settle down spiritually, one should ask himself the question, “Is this the place where I can do the most work, grow the most, and glorify God in the greatest way” (1 Cor. 10:31; 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:18).

With these thoughts in mind, do we ever ask the question, “What does my family owe the church?”

My family owes the church - love and loyalty (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:11). Shouldn’t we love the local body with whom we attend with a genuine love and allegiance? Even when difficult times come, rather than leaving for greener pastures, shouldn’t we be willing to stick around in order to be part of the solution to those difficulties?

My family owes the church - service and hard work (Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58). Shouldn’t my family serve as an example of service before others as we walk in the steps of Jesus (Mark 10:45; John 13:15)?

My family owes the church - spiritual growth and godly living (1 Pet. 2:2; Titus 2:11-12). Shouldn’t we be seen by our brethren and those in the community as a shining light for Christ (Mat. 5:13-16)?

My family owes the church - future laborers and leaders. My family needs to

help pave the way through teaching, encouragement and example the next generation of preachers, elders, and deacons, Bible class teachers and missionaries. Someone needs to be concerned about these matters. Shouldn't it be my family?

Let us not focus primarily on what the church can do for us but what we can do for the church. It all starts with me and then my family. Let's all think seriously along the lines of what our families owe the church of our Lord.

The Southwesterner, Southwest Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin

The Gift of Choice

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known."

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

Every day we are faced with choices. Some of those choices are good and helpful to us and to others. Others are bad and are hurtful to ourselves and to others. But whether we choose good or bad, at the end of the day, what we do is a choice. It's our choice.

This is so simple and yet so hard to accept. We like to own the good choices we make. We will accept the applause. But when we create suffering in our own life or in the lives of others, we would rather pass blame and make excuses for ourselves.

God has blessed us with the unique op-

portunity to choose either blessing or cursing. How are you using this gift? You woke up this morning and can breathe in and out only by God's grace. His grace has shielded you and kept from you all of the curses that you deserve for bad decisions in your past. His grace will present to you hundreds of new opportunities today to choose blessing.

Don't waste this gift! Don't let the bad decisions in your past define what you are going to do and be today! You can still do what is right! God has given you that right! Use this precious gift today to do what is right!

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Unity in the Body of Christ

March 8-11 with Kelvin Pugh @ MidTown

Sunday

- 9 a.m. Friends & Foes of Unity
- 10 a.m. Jesus Prayer for Unity—John 17
(*Fellowship meal after*)
- 1 p.m. Unity When We are Different

Monday

- 7 p.m. Leaders Promoting Unity—
Ephesians 4:11-12

Tuesday

- 7 p.m. Members Promoting Unity—
Ephesians 4:13-16

Wednesday

- 7 p.m. Biblical Formula for Unity—
Ephesians 4:1-6



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 1, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Patrick Gooch
Fruit of the Vine: Bryant Siegel
Offering: Kevin Sheeran
Assist: Desmon Flonnory, Curtis Scherffius, James Cammock

Sunday Evening: Patrick Gooch, Bryant Siegel

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Anthony Scherffius
A.M. Closing: Clifton Rutherford
P.M. Opening: Don Lynn
P.M. Closing: Ron White

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wednesday: Doug Jobs

Ushers:

Allen Clifton
Doug Jobs

Wednesday Devotional: Will Burleson

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters: Dale Hill
Ushers

Prepare Communion: Randles

Our Door Knocking on Saturday, February 22nd was successful. 235 households in Victoria were personally invited to attend our gospel meeting this month. Please pray that these efforts will bear much fruit.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Janice FitzSimmons who began cancer treatments at MD Anderson last week. The families of Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil, who's nephew Damian Benitez, Jr. passed away last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8-11: MidTown's Spring Gospel meeting with Kelvin Pugh.
March 14: GEMS meeting @ 9am
March 15: Jr./Sr. high devotional at the Whites home after evening services.
March 21: Monthly Door Knocking

AREA EVENTS

Mar. 26-28: "Women of Valor" Retreat. More info on the bulletin board.
Mar. 27-29: Beeville Gospel Sermon Series
Mar. 28: Youth Day Bible Study Workshop in Beeville.
June 3-7: "Wait on the Lord" Men's Development conference in College Station.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Patsy Cope, Meagan Stryker (2); Libby Jobs (4); Samuel Pantel, Curtis Scherffius (7).

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 Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of February 23, 2020

Bible Class.....105
A.M. Worship.....157
P.M. Worship.....67
Wednesday Bible Class.....81

Offering \$8,682

Reading for this week:

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known."

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

GO PAPERLESS!

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