

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

March 22, 2020

Issue 12

Will The Real Pandemic Please Stand Up

By: Ronnie Scherffius

As of 10:00am CST, on March 16, 2020, there have been 175,693 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 6,715 confirmed deaths *related* to the coronavirus. COVID-19, a.k.a., the coronavirus, has become a pandemic affecting over 160 countries on six continents. The lives of every human being either has been, is being, or will be touched in some way by this pandemic. Governments are putting emergency measures into place; companies are requiring workers to work “remotely at home” where possible; grocery store shelves are being emptied like its Thanksgiving; public events are being canceled; restaurants and other social gathering places are becoming deserted; professional sporting events are being temporarily suspended or canceled for the season; schools are being closed; some churches are temporarily adjusting services and some are even cancelling all services for 6 to 8 weeks. All of this because an extremely contagious virus has infected roughly .0025% of the world’s population and killed roughly .0001% of the world’s population!

Just a thought — **what if** we took sin just as seriously as we do the coronavirus?

“For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But **your iniquities have separated** between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa. 59:1-2).

“The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and **will not** at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in

the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet” (Nah. 1:3).

“So then **every one of us** shall give account of himself to God.” (Rom. 14:12).

“For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10)

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge **the world** in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered **all nations**: and **he shall separate them** one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...Then shall **he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: **but** the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:31-34, 41, 46).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whore-

mongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

Brethren and friends, please understand that I am not trying minimize the pandemic our world is presently facing. I understand and truly believe that severe consequences are **possible!** Nevertheless, at this very moment countless millions of souls are infected with the contagion of sin completely unaware! How many hundreds of people do you know personally who are suffering from the spiritual pandemic of sin? Have **you** told them about it?! How many conversations have you had with family, friends, coworkers or even casual acquaintances about the present coronavirus pandemic in comparison to conversations with the lost souls of the same company? Have you given more consideration to preparation for and containment from the coronavirus the past few weeks than you have about the lost souls in sin and how they should prepare for the judgment?

SO - what is the true problem before us: the coronavirus that has infected less than 1% of the world’s population; sin that is infecting the whole of the world’s population; **or** our lack of proper concern for those who are in sin and in danger of being lost for eternity? Will the real pandemic please stand up!

It's Not How You Start

Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once..." ...And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords...

Judges 16:28, 30

How did Samson end up in the "Hall of Fame of Faith" (Hebrews 11:32)? Samson was brash, arrogant, rebellious, and self-centered. How does he end up memorialized in a list of the greatest men and wom-

en who ever lived? We're talking about Abraham and Moses, Noah and Sarah! These are paragons of faith. What faith do we see in Samson?

Just about the only example we can find is when Samson prays at the end of his life. He realizes, finally, that the source of his strength is God, and so he prays to have his strength back just one last time to defeat the Philistines.

What an example for us! For all the sins in our life, we can overcome them all by God's grace. The Christian race is a marathon, not a sprint. We're going to stumble and fall. Winning the race is not about flawless perfection, but about patient endurance. This race is not about speed or getting the best time. It's about finishing.

And that may be the best thing we can say about Samson. He finished. Though his faith may not be evident in his life, his faith really shines in his death. For all of his blunders and failures, he was victorious in the end.

Samson was not a fast runner or even an average runner for most of his race. But he finished strong, and in the end that's all that matters.

-Selected-

Sermons are available on the
MidTown website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 22, 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: Mark FitzSimmons
A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Opening: Jim Hutt
P.M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Sun. P.M.: Jerry FitzSimmons
Wednesday: Mike McVey

Ushers:

Allen Clifton
Doug Jobs

Wednesday Devotional: Doug Jobs

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters: Dale Hill
Ushers

Prepare Communion: Randles

****Per the Men's meeting held Wednesday evening, March 18, 2020, it was decided to suspend all services effective immediately due to the Coronavirus and resume services on Sunday, April 5, 2020 if the CDC guidelines have been lifted. ****

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25: F.U.E.L Youth rally hosted by MidTown

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: Tom Pitchford (22); Imelda Sheeran (26)

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 March 15, 2020

Bible Class.....	81
A.M. Worship.....	81
P.M. Worship.....	47
Wednesday Bible Class.....	38

Offering \$4,162

Reading for this week:

Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Joshua 21:45

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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