

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

May 17, 2020

Issue 20

The Pillar And Ground Of The Truth

By: Justin Guess

Volumes have been written about the “one true church” and its nature. There is a beautiful concept seen throughout the New Testament that obedient believers are placed into Christ (Acts 2:47; Gal. 3:27) and belong to Him (Eph. 1:22). When the church is considered in Scripture, it is seen as the “church universal” (Eph. 4:4) and the “local church” (Eph. 1:1-2). The “universal church” refers to the global collection of the saved. The “local church” refers to the local collection of the saved in an area, community, or city. It is the responsibility of the local church to assemble together and get to work (Tit. 2:14). In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul presents two images of the local church and its nature.

The first image is the “household of God.” The obedient believer is a part of the family or household of God (John 1:12-13). The household of God is another name for the church (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19). Paul’s letter to Timothy is a book of instruction of how one should act as a member of God’s family. Chapters 4 through 6 contain various instructions to the church on how to preach and practice the truth of the gospel. If the church does not conduct itself appropriately, then the world will not be able to know that we belong to the household of God (John 13:35).

The second image of the church, is the “pillar and ground of truth.” This description speaks of the spiritual architecture of the church. The “pillar” is a support structure, while the “ground” is the foundation. The very foundation of the church is Jesus and

His saving message (Luke 19:10). A message that was spoken by the prophets, presented by Jesus, and preached by the apostles. That message of truth is the foundation which the church is able to stand upon while performing good works (Eph. 2:10, 19-20). The church builds the walls of the spiritual house of God (Eph. 2:21-22). The pillar holds something up. It is a load bearing post. The church is the pillar, or the support for the message of truth. While the body of Christ is grounded in the truth, the church also lifts it up to the world. It is the responsibility of the saved to preserve, proclaim, and practice the truth.

The local congregations of the Lord’s people are vital to showing a lost world the way to salvation. The members of the church stand upon the truth of the Scriptures and hold it by their words and conduct. The body of Christ is only as strong as its weakest member. The unfaithful member of the body is weakening and harming the very foundation of God’s truth in the world. Therefore, it is our individual responsibility to grow in knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18) and strength (Eph. 6:10) to help the efforts of Christ in our communities and beyond.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
(Colossians 3:17)

Justin Guess serves as the local preacher for the Mathis Church of Christ

Trusting in God, Not His Blessings

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you."

2 Chronicles 16:7

One of the problems with living in a prosperous nation like ours is that we are conditioned to trust in God's blessings rather than in God himself.

That's what appears to have happened to good king Asa. Early in his life he demonstrated extraordinary faith. He was faced with a million man army from Ethiopia and because of his faith in God, the Lord gave him a great victory over that enemy (2 Chron 14).

Listen to what Asa prayed to God: "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." (2 Chron 14:11)

Near the end of Asa's reign, after he had prospered for many years, his faith was not as strong. In this chapter he was faced with a lesser foe, and instead of going to God for help, he took silver and gold from the temple and sent it to one of the pagan nations around them hoping to secure their help.

What can we learn from Asa's sin? We should be aware of the tendency to get lulled to sleep by success. Once life becomes easy and comfortable, we can easily learn to put our trust in all the physical blessings we possess (and forget where these blessings come from).

-Selected-

True Worship Versus Idolatry

Reading: 2 Chronicles 8-11

For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the Lord, and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for the calves that he had made. And those who had set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the Lord, the God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 11:14-16

True worship and idolatry could not be more different.

- True worship exalts the Creator, while idolatry exalts the creation.
- True worship recognizes our place as the creation and God as Creator, while idolatry makes us creator.
- True worship molds and shapes us into the image of God, while idolatry reverses this process so that we mold and shape the object of our worship (an idol made after our image and our likeness).
- True worship naturally springs from an open heart and a willing mind that is free of selfishness and pride, while idolatry closes the mind and hardens the heart because idolatry is fundamentally about supporting our own needs and ego.

-Selected-

MidTown's Sunday Morning-Worship service at 11am can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 17, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Pat Gooch
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Scott DeDear

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Ron White
A.M. Closing: James Cammock

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Ushers: Allen Clifton

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

****Per the Men's meeting held Thursday, April 30th, 2020, it was decided to only have an 11am morning worship on Sundays starting as of May 10, 2020.**

There will be no Bible class, evening worship or Wednesday worship at this stage. The men would like to strongly encourage members 65 and older or who have an underlying health condition to worship at home using the live stream rather than coming to the building. In order to observe social distancing, families/persons will have assigned seating. This is only until social distancing requirements are lifted. Please email ahead of time to

events.midtowncoc@gmail.com by Wednesdays so that preparations can be made for seating. You may also text James Cammock at (512) 914-9112 to R.S.V.P. It is strongly recommended to wear a mask upon entering and leaving the building. There are a limited number of masks that are available if you do not have one and there will be hand sanitizer available as well. Communion will be prepackaged and steps will be taken to ensure sanitation.**

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Janice FitzSimmons, who is at home and doing well. Jackie Rutherford, who fell and broke her wrist.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Summer Siegel (21); Doug Jobes (23)

Happy Anniversary: Don & Debby Lynn (17); Roy & Marguerite Arnot (19)

The Adult Summer Series has been postponed at this time.

As an aid to families with children, there are current Bible Class materials available on our church website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

Sermons are available on our website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources and Wednesday night Bible classes are online with the Zoom app.

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 Worship: 11:00AM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of May 10, 2020

A.M. Worship.....46
Online views during worship.....40

Offering week of May 10, 2020.....\$5,923

Reading for this week:

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2 Chronicles 16:7

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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