

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

May 24, 2020

Issue 21

Christian Nobility

By: Ronnie Scherffius

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more **noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:10-11)

Nobility, though a word rarely used by us today still evokes a sense of dignity and respect. A person of nobility is generally acknowledged as one of preeminence. He is a person of rank above the vulgar class (commoners). He is a man well-known or renowned either because of lineage or high-rank. When we speak of nobility we think of kings, queens and the landed-gentry of medieval times or the aristocracy and patricians of ancient Rome. To be possessed of *nobility* suggests privilege, honor and worth due one based on the socio-political structures of society.

There is also a *nobility* that is wholly divorced from social rank and lineage. This *nobility* has to do with the honor and worthiness due one based on their character. In such a case, even the most vulgar of the population may be referred to as *noble*. The Berean Jews are described by Luke as “more noble than those in Thessalonica” not because of rank or high-birth (cf. Lk. 19:12; 1 Cor. 1:26) but because of their character and attitude toward the gospel: “they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). From this passage, we discover two identifiable marks found in *Christian Nobility*.

To belong to *Christian Nobility* one must have a **readiness of mind** regarding the Word of God. The key to this noble trait is understanding the full meaning of the Greek term translated *readiness of mind*. In a literal sense the word means “eagerness or rushing forward.” Certainly the idea of zeal is included. In the five occasions it is found in the New Testament it is used of the *predisposition* of the mind (Acts 17:11; 2 Cor. 8:12, 19; 9:2) or will (2 Cor. 8:11). Picture a group of fans rushing forward with anticipation at the site of a celebrity and translate that to a disposition of mind - this was the character of the Berean Jews regarding the declaration of the gospel of Christ. Their minds rushed forward, eagerly anticipating news of the Savior. What a noble trait! What honorable character!

To belong to Christian nobility one must possess the character of **searching the Scriptures daily**. The word *search* is found two times in our New Testament. First, it is used of “searching the scriptures” (Acts 11:17) and second of the Old Testament prophets “searching diligently” to understand the what and when of those things revealed to them through the Spirit (1 Pt. 1:10). The word translated “searched diligently” used by Peter indicates a diligent search to *discover* whereas the word translated “searching” describing the noble Bereans indicates an investigation or scrutinizing to *determine*. Perhaps the translation, “examining the Scriptures” (ASV), is better suited for our modern English. (note the translations in Luke 23:14; Acts 4:9; 12:19)

The Bereans set a standard of Christian Nobility, not because of a noble birth but because of their disposition to eagerly examining the Scriptures to determine the truth of what they were being taught. Are you a part of Christian Nobility? Do you daily and with great eagerness examine the Word of God to determine if what you are being taught by the elders, your preacher or Bible class teacher is so? May we ever strive to attain to the noble example of the Bereans.

Where Restoration Starts

Reading for May 19: Ezra 5-7

On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover... And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Ezra 6:19, 22

Where does restoration begin?

In the three great restorations in the Old Testament (Hezekiah, Josiah, and the return to the land after exile) we see a common practice: the Passover was remembered!

What was the significance of the Passover? How did it encourage true restoration? The Passover was a reminder of what God had done in saving Israel from bondage in Egypt. Thus, the Passover was critical in reestablishing their identity. They were the people of God. They owed him all their heart, soul, strength, and mind. The Passover was a powerful reminder of that to God's people.

In the New Testament, Christ is called our Passover (1 Cor 5:7). He was slain as a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet 1:18-19) so that we might be set free from our bondage to sin (Rom 6:12-23). As

often as we eat the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, we remember what our Lord and Savior did for us redeeming us from our slavery (1 Cor 11:23-26).

It is this memory that brings about restoration. We owe the Lord everything (2 Cor 5:14-15; Gal 2:20). The reason why we don't give diligence to our spiritual growth is because we've forgotten that we were cleansed from our old sins (2 Pet 1:9). That's why we must serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Heb 12:28).

-Selected-

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 SENIORS!

Manny Flonnory

Parker DeDear

Kirk FitzSimmons

There will be a "Drive-thru" celebration on June 6th, 2020. More details to follow.



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 24, 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: Doug Jobes
A.M. Closing: Ron White

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius
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. Barbie Dolan, who responded to the invitation last Sunday morning. Millie Jamison, who fell and broke her ankle this past weekend. She had a successful procedure and will be at DeTar for two weeks of "in-house" therapy, room 573.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Marilyn Horst (25), Angy Hutt (26), Bryant Siegel (29), Zachary Serenil (31)

Happy Anniversary: Brant & Anna Jacobs (30), Kevin & Imelda Sheeran (31)

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 17, 2020

A.M. Worship.....49
Online views during worship.....32

Offering week of May 17, 2020.....\$3,107

Reading for this week:

On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover... And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel. Ezra 6:19, 22

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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