

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

October 4, 2020

Issue 40

## *What If I Am Wrong?*

By: Wayne Jones

Have you had a political discussion with anyone lately? Was it a discussion of differing viewpoints and disagreements? If so, you have probably witnessed and even participated in one of the most futile activities in human history. Ok, maybe that is a dramatic assessment. But it is safe to say that most enter such discussions with their viewpoint anchored in concrete and nothing short of dynamite could lose them from their starting point.

This personal steadfastness on political issues does not affect me much. I rarely discuss politics. So admittedly, I am ok with varying opinions and can even see the value of ideas that are different from my own.

My realm, my work, and my primary interest is spiritual, Bible-based discussions. We should engage these discussions with a genuine concern for truth and never compromise that which has been proven to be sound doctrine. Once we have tested the spirits (1 Jn 4:1) and examined everything carefully, we should hold fast to what is proven good (1 Thess. 5:21). Why? Because the Bible is right. Because truth is absolute. Because life depends on it.

Consequently, I find religious disagreements much more difficult to handle. If truth is unchanging and I have found it, why would I give ground, allow discussion, or even rethink my convictions due to the viewpoint, studied opinions, or conclusions of someone else? As a defender of truth, my natural inclination would be to shut down any attempt at alteration. In holding fast to what is good, my response to a dissenting opinion would

be to silence the one sharing it or to influence anyone listening to give it no weight. With great force, volume, and aggression I might crush the teaching and teacher in one fail swoop, so as to stop their mouths (Titus 1:11) once and for all.

After this defense of my convictions, if I were to look back with sincere honesty, what I might see is this: I had acted about religious disagreements the same way some act about political disagreements and the results were just as similar. No minds were changed. No progress was made. No evidence offered was considered. I might feel the satisfaction of having defended my ground, but religious discussion is not about me. It is about transformation and conversion.

In some cases, we do not spend enough time testing the spirits and examining everything carefully. This process might take longer than we had first assumed, and it might need to be done again and again as we wrestle with the deeper matters of Scripture. A brother or sister can bring a legitimate question from the Biblical text or an honest conclusion based on personal study only to be ridiculed and rejected on sight with little to no “testing” or “examining” at all.

Maybe I could offer a few additional observations that might encourage us to spend more time testing and examining before we determine a position to be wrong and a person to be worthy of condemnation.

- What if I am wrong? Just because the Bible is always right doesn't mean that we, as Bible students,

always are. Have you ever been wrong about anything? Could you ever be wrong about anything again?

- Truth can handle scrutiny. Any Bible doctrine is durable enough to withstand questions, reexamination, and verification.
- Courtesy and honesty are owed to all men, even those who believe and teach differently from me. Believing in a representative indwelling of the Holy Spirit does not make one a deist and believing in the literal indwelling does not make one a Pentecostal. We should focus more on what is being taught and less on who else is teaching something similar.
- We should spend more time studying to understand the text or passage being discussed and less time predicting the implications of someone's conclusion. Truth will not lead to false doctrine. Properly understanding the text will preclude one from forming unbiblical conclusions.

Dear readers, let us hunger and thirst for righteousness, seek to defend truth, and love the brotherhood. All of these can be done and should be done simultaneously.

*Wayne Jones serves as minister for the University Church of Christ, San Marcos, TX, and is a part of the SWSBS faculty.*

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### **Hope in a Dark Place**

Are you as distressed about the state of the country as I am? We are bombarded daily by stories of injustice, corruption, abuse of power, dishonesty, and immorality. Our hearts grieve over the broken homes and broken lives we see all around us. The world seems to be only getting worse by the day. A dark cloud of evil seems to be enveloping all that was once good and true.

It is in times like these that we can find comfort in the prophets. Zechariah assures us that God is still our God and that in his kingdom there is faithfulness and righteousness (8:8). He dwells in our midst and so we have no reason to fear (2:10-11; 8:12-13; 14:11). He gives us a picture of old men and old women sitting in the streets and children playing in the streets without care or concern (8:4-5). In this place there is no night but only the brightness of day (14:6-7). Living waters will come from an open fountain that flows for all (13:1; 14:8).

I like to think about this place. Maybe I should watch less news and read more from the prophets.

-Selected-

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### **Hard Hearts**

Ever seen a kid out in public who refused to listen to his mother. He didn't get his way and so he pouted and folded his arms and maybe even stopped up his ears while his mother spoke to him. It's not a good look for the child. There are few things that bother us more than a child who simply refuses to listen to his parents.

What does that look like when it comes to us and God? Can you imagine how obnoxious we must look? What do you think the angels in heaven must be thinking when they see us down here on earth with our arms folded tight, nodding our head back and forth saying no to God?

They must be wondering why God would put up with us.

Father, forgive us for our stubborn pride. Thank you for being so patient with us. Rebuke us and break our will so that we might humbly submit to yours.

-Selected-

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 4, 2020

\*\*subject to change\*\*

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: James Cammock  
Fruit of the Vine: James Cammock  
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Bryant Siegel  
A.M. Closing: Ricky Bass

### **Song Leaders:**

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

**Ushers:** Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devo:** Ron White

**Open/Close Building:** Will Burleson

**Sound System:** Mark FitzSimmons

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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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**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.**

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Pam Clifton, who is requesting prayers for strength. Erica Valle, (Randle family friend), who lost both her parents to illness recently.

Happy Birthday: Tamyra Carroll (1); Barbara Nuckels (5); Willie Cannady, Sandra Mericle, Janet Morales (7); Ashley Price, Sally Law (8)

Happy Anniversary: Tom & Gayla Pitchford (5); Scott & Mickey DeDear (7)

### Upcoming Events:

*Sunday, Oct. 4: Men's Business meeting @ 1pm*

*Sunday, Oct. 11: Youth devo here at the building. More details to come.*

*\*Anyone who would like to donate individually wrapped Little Debbie Food Cakes, single serve size chips and can drinks for the devo, you may leave them in the kitchen\**

*Dec. 4-6: Challenging the Church hosted by MidTown.*

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**\*\*FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING\*\***

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Janice FitzSimmons  
Ken and Sandra Marie  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick  
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 Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of September 27, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....72  
A.M. Worship.....101  
Online views during worship.....40  
Wednesday Bible Class.....56

Offering week of September 27, 2020.....\$5,078

## Reading for this week:

On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

Zechariah 13:1

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## SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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## GO PAPERLESS!

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To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox  
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