



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

January 17, 2021

Issue 3

The Connection Between Humility and Relief

By: Neal Pollard

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:6-7). Peter has just told younger men to be subject to elders (1-5), and for each group to conduct themselves with humility toward each other. The motivation for this is to avoid God’s rejection. Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34 to reinforce the point.

Peter then urges everyone to humble themselves in their relationship with God. That’s the same word that describes what Jesus did by being obedient to the point of death on the cross (Phil. 2:8). It means to go lower, to surrender prestige or status (BDAG 990). This humbling concerns a specific aspect of all of our lives. Each of us has “anxiety” to cope with. By definition, an anxiety is “a feeling of apprehension or distress in view of possible danger or misfortune” (Louw-Nida 312).

Right now, there are no doubt things which make you apprehensive and distressed. You may be facing danger or misfortune. On some level and to some degree, that describes the pressure and reality for nearly all of us these days. As beings created with the freedom of choice, we can try to cope with that ourselves with our own coping tools. Maybe, in our pride, we boast in our own ability to handle it all. Not only is that a delusion and a self-deception, it is flirting with disaster. Why not choose a better way? Peter lays that out for us.

Let’s survey the facts here.

GOD IS ABLE—You are entrusting yourself in His mighty hand. He is in control and has the power to rule in every situation. This is the same hand He holds you in the hollow of (Isa. 40:12).

GOD IS AWARE—He has the exclusive benefit of perfect foreknowledge. He knows what is going on now and He can see what will happen. As He works through time and events, He is choosing the proper time to lift you as you have surrendered yourself to His power and His wisdom. He knows everything that is going on in your situation. In fact, He knows about it at a much more intimate level than even you do.

GOD IS AFFECTIONATE—What motivates Him to act? He cares for you! Peter is telling us to throw all our anxiousness on God, like the disciples threw their coats on the colt so that Jesus could sit on it (Luke 19:35). Take each burden, fear, and worry you are carrying right now, that is weighing you down, and toss it into His mighty hand (a hand you will examine and find very capable—read Isaiah 40:12 again). Peter says He feels anxious concern for us. Sure, He *can* handle it. But it’s more than that. He *wants* to handle it. Why? Because you mean *that much* to Him!

I read this promise and I admonish myself. Why am I trying to carry this all by myself when God is offering to do this for me? He tells me to get myself out of the way and let

Him handle this. Faced with my limitations and His limitless resources, it is futile and foolish to face these distressing matters in any other way!

Amen and A-woman?

by Brett Petrillo

According to longstanding tradition, the 117th Congress was opened with a prayer. As Rep. Emanuel Cleaver came to the end of his prayer, he concluded with “*Amen and a-woman.*” Yes, you read that correctly, “*a-woman.*” As if, in some way, “amen” was actually some chauvinistic masculine word.

To set the record straight, “amen” is an ancient Hebrew word that has been used for thousands of years. It simply means “*may it be so.*” In other words, after a prayer, we are collectively requesting that the words of the prayer would happen.

There is a tantalizing desire to take this article into the dumpster-fire discussion of politics, but there is a much more important lesson to learn about our culture right now – The United States is *ignorant* about Christianity.

While Rep. Cleaver may have shown us an extreme example, this religious ignorance is more common than you might think. Personally, I’ve had conversations with people who have “heard of Jesus but didn’t know what He did.” Another person hadn’t heard of Moses or knew anything about the difference between the Old Testament & New Testament. Let’s not even get started on complex Bible words like redemption, sanctification, and righteousness.

The days have long passed when we can make religious assumptions in our nation. We need to stop assuming people *know* Bible words. We need to stop assuming people *know* Bible people.

We need to stop assuming people *know* about Jesus.

We need to stop assuming people *know* how to pray or worship.

We need to stop assuming people *know* what is happening during worship.

We need to stop assuming people *know* the basics of Christianity.

The bottom line is...we need to ***stop assuming.***

At this very moment, we’ve reached a place in our nation where people may not know Jesus, know the Bible, or know that “amen” isn’t a gendered word. We very well may be heading towards another time when people are darkened in their understanding because of the ignorance that is in them (Eph. 4:17-29).

If we’re going to reach our world today and fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20), we need to change. We need to change how we think. We need to change how we teach. We need to change how we talk. We need to change what we do. We need to change how we evangelize.

Amen.

bpsfuelforthought.wordpress.com/2021/01/04/amen-and-a-woman/

You can find the link to more articles from Bret Petrillo on our website (midtowncoc.org) under the links, Study Resources, BP’s Fuel For Thought.



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 17, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: Ron White
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: James Cammock
A.M. Closing: Clifton Rutherford
P. M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran
P. M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass
Sun. P.M.: Fred Scherffius
Wed. P.M.: Doug Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Kevin Sheeran

Open/Close Building: Randles

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.

Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please continue to pray for our shut ins.

Happy Birthday: Nina Siegel (21)

BAPTISM

We rejoice in the Lord for the obedience to the gospel of Kaylee Scherffius. May her walk with Christ bear much fruit.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 30. We will be canvassing several neighborhoods in Victoria with invitations to study the Bible. Due to COVID-19, we will be hanging material on door knobs instead of door-knocking .

Please meet at the church building at 1 P.M. Material and maps will be provided at that time. If you are planning to assist in this effort, please let James Cammock know as soon as possible.

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

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
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:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of January 10, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	47
A.M. Worship.....	60
Sunday Evening Worship.....	41
Wednesday Bible Class.....	47

Offering : January 10, 2021.....\$3,119

Reading for this week:

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Genesis 41:51-52

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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