



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

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Issue 19

Basic Facts about ... the New Testament

By: Dave Rogers

The books of the new testament are titled in some older copies of the bible as “the Last Will and Testament of Jesus the Christ.” This part of the bible is comprised of 27 books penned by at least nine inspired writers (ten, if Paul was not the penman for the letter to the Hebrews). These books divide naturally into four basic sections, which deal with the gospel record (Matthew - John, which record the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus), the establishment of the church (the book of Acts, which illustrates how to become a Christian), letters to churches and individual Christians (Romans - Jude, which explain how to live faithfully as a Christian), and the Revelation, which emphasizes the eternal hope of the Christian.

The four gospel records present only one account of one life (the life of Jesus the Christ); therefore, what we have are four accounts of THE gospel, rather than four “gospels.” Each writer addressed distinct and different segments of first century society, emphasizing facts about the Christ that would most effectively impact the members of each segment. Matthew was written to Jews by a Jewish Christian and emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of the old testament’s prophecies of the Messiah and the long-awaited King of the Jews. Mark – the shortest record of Jesus’

life – displays only the basic facts of His life, presenting Him as a man of action (which would appeal to the Roman way of thinking), the perfect and all-powerful Servant of God. Luke presents Jesus as the ideal man, the embodiment of every good, pure or perfect quality. As the “perfect” man, this image not only appealed to the intellectualism of the Greek mind, it also reveals Him as both the Savior and the perfecter of all people. Finally, John (called the “Christian” gospel by some scholars) presents Jesus as the Divine Son of God, Who became human in order to provide eternal life for all who will accept Him.

The twenty-eight chapters of Acts display both the basic steps involved in becoming a Christian and the record of the beginning and growth of the church. We see the gospel spread, first from an exclusively Jewish audience to the Samaritans, and eventually to the Gentile world. Luke, the inspired writer, also provides much historical background for the subsequent epistles (or, “letters”) that were addressed to various congregations and individuals. We should not discount the importance of the book of Acts in matters of doctrine beyond the fundamentals of how to become a Christian, however, for Luke also provides a wealth of both doctrinal and practical information. (Acts contains several ex-

amples of how Christians resolved conflicts among themselves, in a variety of situations.)

The “epistles,” or letters to individual Christians and congregations (Romans through Jude) further develop and expand for us a number of key teachings given by Jesus, as well as showing some of the problems, challenges, and errors the original Christians had to confront. These letters also emphasize the love, hope, and joy which are meant by God to be characteristics of the Christian life.

The Revelation – the final book of the bible – provides hope and comfort for Christians who face severe challenges to their faith. Written mostly in figures and symbols, the message of this book draws heavily on the old testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel. Its message to Christians is that no matter how fearsome those opposing the Christ and His gospel may appear, we should understand that the final outcome of the conflict between good and evil was decided (in favor of God and His people!) at Calvary. Therefore, Christians can live boldly and confidently no matter how bleak or hopeless the conditions in the world may seem to be.

Faith Working Through Love

Galatians 5:6 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love.**”

There is faith. There is faith working. There is faith working through love. Only the latter can save our souls.

Faith is necessary for our salvation. If we

do not believe we cannot be saved (John 8:4). If we truly believe we will trust (2 Corinthians 1:9-10; 3:4; 1 Timothy 4:10; 6:17; Hebrews 2:14) and obey (Acts 5:29, 32; Romans 2:8; 6:16-17; 10:16; Galatians 3:1; Philippians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 5:9; 11:6, 8; 1 Peter 4:17).

Faith working is necessary for our salvation.

Faith without works cannot save; it is unprofitable (James 2:14-16). Faith by itself is dead (v. 17). Faith is made perfect by works (v. 22). We are justified by works, not by faith alone (v. 24). It is not our own works that save us (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:3-8) but the work of faith (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:11), the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26).

Faith working through love is necessary for salvation.

We cannot be saved unless we receive the love of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10). Salvation is for those who love the Lord (1 Corinthians 2:9; 16:22; James 1:12; 2:5) and the brethren (1 John 3:10, 14). Anyone who does not love does not know God (1 John 4:7-8). If anyone does not love the Lord, he will be accursed (1 Corinthians 16:22). If we leave our love for the Lord, we will lose our place with Him (Revelation 2:4-5).

What kind of faith do you have?

-selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 9, 2021

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Ron White
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Doug Jobes
A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran
P. M. Opening: James Cammock
P. M. Closing: Bryant Siegel

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Isaac Jobes
Sun. P.M.: Fred Scherffius
Wed. P.M.: Kirk FitzSimmons

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Bryant Siegel

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

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.**

Special Note:

The Youth Devo scheduled for tonight has been postponed to Sunday, May 16th after evening worship services. Thank you!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Elana Carroll who will soon be undergoing medical tests for a tumor that is causing her seizures. Please pray that everything she needs to be done, happen in a timely manner for these tests to begin. Ron White's sister, Gerry Rollins, who went to the ER with apparent leg blood clots. Letty Randle who was ill at home this past week. Ronnie Scherffius, who is recuperating from an appendectomy.

Happy Birthday: Luke FitzSimmons (10); Tre Cannady (11)

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 6th—Monthly fellowship meal following morning worship service with an afternoon service following. Please bring a potluck meal.

Sunday, June 13th—Monthly youth devotional here at the building after evening worship services.

Friday, June 25th—Monthly family fellowship night. More details to come.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Scott DeDear
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.

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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

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 May 2, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	56
A.M. Worship.....	73
Sunday Evening Worship.....	54
Wednesday Bible Class.....	50
Offering :	\$3,014

Reading for this week:

“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do? And he answered, Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”

2 Kings 6:15-16

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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