



Midtown Messenger

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Issue 47

AN UNLOVING GOD?

By: Ronnie Scherffius

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Gen. 3:1-5)

Do God’s commands that limit and restrict man’s will, abilities and enjoyment of pleasures demonstrate that He is a cruel, manipulative and controlling God? This very thought was the foundation laid for the fall of man. Such an idea plants a seed of doubt into the mind of man that, when germinated begins questioning God’s love, and ends denying He exists. Thus, the foundation upon which Satan has built his house is — God is unloving.

The theme of the Bible is the Christ, and yet the Christ is the manifestation of God’s love for man (Jn. 3:16). Following the fall of man (Gen. 3:1-7) God immediately announces the defeat of man’s adversary by the Christ — “the seed of woman” (Gen. 3:15). With rapid speed the scene changes to a world that has rejected the love of God and declined to near

total depravity (Gen. 6:1-5). Having both executed justice and extended mercy (Gen. 6-9), God next introduces us to the family of Abraham, the family through which He will bring the Christ into the world (Gen. 12-28). The remainder of the Old Testament provides the history of this family becoming a nation, first walking in the love of God then denying His love for the most abominable perversions. The writings of the Old Testament prophets provide a picture of God dealing with Israel in both His love and mercy, but also His holiness and justice as He prepares to bring His Christ into the world through them.

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Gal. 4:4). This passage could easily have been the opening of the New Testament text. The gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the inspired record of the Lord’s Christ (Lk. 2:26). Remembering His covenant, God prepared a body to bring the Christ into the world (Heb. 10:1-10). Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of God (Lk. 9:20). Yet, Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Mt. 3:17; Lk. 9:35; 2 Pt. 2:17). The depth of this monumental truth not only destroys the foundation of the adversary (that God is unloving) but serves as the very foundation upon which saving faith is established!

Jesus Christ the Son of God was Deity in the flesh (Jn 1:1, 14, 8:56-58; 17:5; Phil. 2:6; Heb. 1:1-3). Deity took on flesh (i.e. God became man) in the person of Jesus that He (Deity in the flesh) might die as a sacrifice for the sins of man (Jn. 1:29; 12:32; 2 Cor. 5:15-16; Phil. 2:8; 1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9). The

charge that God is unloving is at once seen to be false *when* one fully understands that Deity, who created man, took on flesh for the express purpose of dying in man's place (1 Pt. 3:18). By His death, Jesus provided a means by which sinful man might be forgiven, redeemed, justified, sanctified, and reconciled back to God (Jn. 3:16; 15:13; 1 Pt. 1:18-19; Mt. 20:28; Mk. 10:45; Eph. 5:16; Rom. 5:6, 8).

Satan, the adversary of man is a liar (Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9). God's commands that limit and restrict man from "pleasures" of this world (cf. Heb. 11:25) do not reveal an unloving God. In fact, just the opposite is true. An unloving God would never warn man of sin's consequences. But God, who is love (1 Jn. 4:16), not only warns man but has provided a way of escaping the penalty of sin. That escape is the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, the full measure of His love for you!

What We Learn About Baptism from the Ethiopian Eunuch

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"
Acts 8:36

There are loads of implications about baptism we can draw out of this single verse!

- Preaching Jesus involves preaching baptism. The previous verse tells us that Philip preached Jesus to him. He must have told him about baptism when he did this.
- Baptism requires water. He asked, "See here is water..."
- Baptism is an immersion. This is clearer in verse 38 where it says they both went down into the water, but even this verse

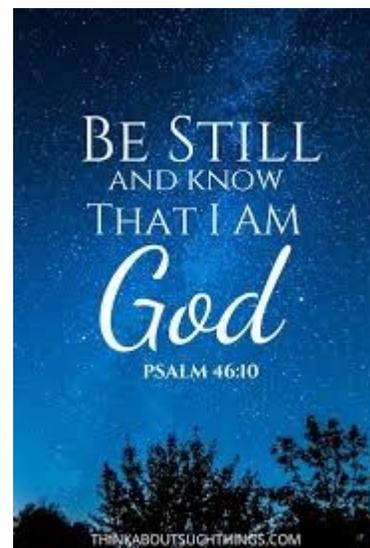
carries this implication. The eunuch had water in his chariot, more than enough to sprinkle on his head. He needed more water than what he had in his chariot to be immersed.

Baptism has nothing to do with "church membership." He didn't say, "Hey, here's a church, what prevents me from being baptized?"

The eunuch understood what baptism was all about. I believe it is safe to assume his desire wasn't to go jump in a lake and get wet. When he heard about Jesus, he wanted to become a Christian. His wanted to be in Christ and put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). He wanted to die with Christ and rise to new life (Romans 6:3-4; John 3:3-6). He desired to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16), to have the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

And by the grace of God, through his faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, the eunuch came up out of the water a new man, and went on his way rejoicing!

-Selected-



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 22, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Bryant Siegel
Fruit of the Vine: Bryant Siegel
Offering: Lupe Escojido

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido
A.M. Closing: Steve Randle
P. M. Opening: Bryce Dolan
P. M. Closing: James Cammock

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building:

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 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:

Please continue to pray for those affected by the Corona Virus. Janice FitzSimmons, who is in Citizen's Hospital.

Happy Birthday: Harvey Rampley (26); Les Daltry (27); Melanie Pantel (27)

Happy Anniversary: Larry & Barbara Nuckels (23); Bryce & Barbie Dolan (27)

Upcoming Events:

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

Feb. 13, 2021: Ladies' Day hosted by MidTown.

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

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: 10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of November 15, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....67
A.M. Worship.....99
Sunday Evening Worship.....56
Wednesday Bible Class.....53

Offering : November 15, 2020.....\$2,736

Reading for this week:

"Let it be known to you therefore, brothers,
that through this man forgiveness of sins is
proclaimed to you..."

Acts 13:38

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

