



Midtown Messenger

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Issue 43

Some Things Never Change

By: Ronnie Scherffius

The headline read: *A SOCIETY LIKE NO OTHER*. The article depicted society in a state of near total depravity. Political corruption was beyond description. From the highest office in the land to the most mean local official, oppression was the norm. Justice and equality was a stranger. Society at large, like its governing bodies had spiraled out of control. Violence, murderers and rioting in the streets were so common in metropolitan cities they were no longer considered “news-worthy.”

Immorality raged — drunkenness, public lewdness, public rape, and fornication in every form (adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia and incest) were practiced openly and with little restraint. In fact, the dalliances of one of societies most well known ladies with government officials and the cultural elite were so numerous that the legitimacy of her adult children remain in question to this day. (Even she is uncertain!) One of societies most beloved writers published a book that not only celebrated such immorality but instructed men and women how to be successful in their promiscuity.

The sport and entertainment world captivated society at large. Stadiums were filled to capacity with fans cheering their favorite athletes. Captivated audiences sat in awe of the actor and actress in the theater. The successful athletes and most talented actors, in many quarters of society, both lived as, and were treated as gods.

The home and family was in great decline. Adulterous practices and divorce rates so increased that legislators contemplated restrictions and penalties. Abortion was practiced on a large scale. Those who could not afford physicians resorted to “homemade” methods. Reports of couples selling their children or even exposing newborns to the elements and certain death (because a daughter not a son was born) were commonplace.

Religion was a free-for-all. Religions that did not violate state mandates or threaten the unity of the nation were given special preference. The older more “noble” religions were allowed and at times even honored. But Christianity was a pernicious superstition. Some officials began to wonder if it should not be declared *religio illicita*, an illegal religion.

No, this is not our society today. This was ancient Rome. It seems that some things never change.

Why does ungodliness and wickedness prevail in our society today? There is a distinct pattern throughout history that when allowed to go unchecked opens the door to our adversary, sin and corruption. The problem, dear reader, is man! Man has left God. Man is not listening to God. Man is not following God. Man is not serving God. Man is not worshipping God. Man is not standing with God. Man has become opposed to all that pertains to his Creator! Consider the pattern.

Step one — man moves away from God. The first evidence of this is seen in corruption among God's people and in the church. The doctrine is changed to satisfy the desires of man. Unwilling to submit to God and His will man chooses a doctrine void of God.

“That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, **cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us**” (Isa. 30:9-11; cf. Jer. 5:31; 2 Tim. 4:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; et al).

Changing the doctrine and will of God man then corrupts the glory and worship of God. God is no longer the object of man's worship, but man himself becomes the chief god and the center of glory and honor. Man's doctrines and traditions become the foundation and guide for his worship and service (Mt. 15:3-9). Worship ceases to be a time to honor, praise and glorify God and becomes a time to “celebrate” man's abilities, glorify his own works, and to be satisfied with the spiritual highs that come with “experiencing holiness.” (whatever that means!) Ceasing to honor God man honors himself (cf. Mal. 1:6-7).

To be concluded in next week's bulletin

Minor Characters at the Cross

I read somewhere about the minor characters at the cross in Mark's account of the crucifixion. This author made the point that after Peter's denial in chapter 14, in Mark's account we don't read about any of the disciples until after Jesus was raised.

Instead, throughout chapter 14 and 15 of Mark we read about Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus' head (14:3), about Simon of Cyrene bearing Jesus' cross (15:21), about the Centurion confessing Christ (15:39), and about the three faithful women who stayed there with Jesus until the end (15:41).

The point of this?

While all of the "important" people failed Jesus, it was the lowly "insignificant" people who shined bright. As Jesus said, "But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Mark 10:31)

Father, help us to see ourselves as you see us. We don't have to be "important" to be noticed in your eyes. Give us strength to do our part, no matter how unimportant we may consider our part to be.

-Selected-

Read your bible,

Pray every day,

If you want to grow.



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 25, 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: Ron White
A.M. Closing: Fred Scherffius

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Fred Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Steve Randle

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

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 was in De-Tar with Pneumonia. June Green, mother of Janice FitzSimmons, who had a stroke.

Happy Birthday: Mary Jo White (24); Caitlin Serenil (28); Holden Jacobs (30).

Happy Anniversary: Phillip & Nicolette Garcia (29)

Upcoming Events:

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

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

**Sunday Evening worship services will resume No-
vember 1st, 2020 at 5pm.**

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 October 18, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....76
A.M. Worship.....103
Online views during worship.....31
Wednesday Bible Class.....54

Offering week of October 18, 2020.....\$4,118

Reading for this week:

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:38-39

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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