



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

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Issue 5

The House Of The Lord

By: Ronnie Scherffius

People often travel to faraway places and visit the ruins of kingdoms and empires that once were. But imagine witnessing ancient Egypt during the age of the Pharaohs or walking through the city of ancient Babylon during the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Even more awe-inspiring would be attending the gladiatorial games at the Colosseum or the chariot races at the Circus Maximus. Or what could compare to witnessing the grandeur of Trajan's Forum with its shops, vendors, library, law courts, and the temple? Yet, when one looks at Isaiah's prophetic picture of the house of the Lord (Isa. 2:2-4), no citizenship of any kingdom could be more desired. Let's consider six characteristics Isaiah highlights in his prophecy of *the house of the Lord* - the church.

Note first that the **dominion** of the Lord's house is greater than all other kingdoms: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains" (Isa. 2:2a). The dominion of the Lord's house is greater because of its boundaries (Lk. 1:33), blessings (Eph. 1:3), King (Acts 2:36; Rev. 17:14), and His sovereignty (Mt. 28:18). No dominion of man can be compared to the dominion of *the house of the Lord*.

Second, the **exaltation** of the Lord's house is greater than any kingdom of men: "and shall be exalted above the hills" (Isa. 2:2b). Four great world empires represented in the book of Daniel as awe-inspiring and full of wonder: Babylon is pictured as a head of gold (2:38) and a lion with eagle's wings

(7:4); Persia is seen as silver (2:39) and a bear devouring much flesh (7:5); Greece is viewed as brass (2:39) and a four-winged leopard with four heads (7:6); Rome in its great strength is pictured as iron (2:40) and a beast that was dreadful and terrible (7:7). Yet, none of these compare great exaltation as of the house of the Lord. Phrases such as the "kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 3:2), "kingdom of God" (Lk. 8:1), "kingdom of Christ and of God" (Eph. 5:5), "kingdom of his dear son" (Col. 1:13), and the "kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (1 Pt. 1:11) far and away surpass any exaltation a kingdom of man will ever attain.

Third, Isaiah pictures the **population** of the house of the Lord: "and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isa. 2:2b). The house of the Lord is not limited to the landed gentry or the aristocracy. The poor, as well as the rich, are invited, the accomplished and the amateur are each accepted, the educated and the illiterate are welcome, the freed and the enslaved are equally received. There are no racial, gender, or ethnic biases. All who come to the Lord in humble obedience may dwell in His house.

Fourth, the **instruction** received in the Lord's house is superior to the greatest academies and universities known to humanity: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (2:3). In the Lord's house is found instruction in the righteous ways of God (Ps.

145:17). All who follow in the instructed paths of God's light (Ps. 119:105) will be commended as wise servants (Mt. 7:24).

Fifth, the **admonition** in the Lord's house is just and right: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people" (Isa. 2:4). The psalmist wrote, "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face" (Ps. 89:14). Having exalted His only begotten Son to the throne (cf. Dan. 7:13, 14; Acts 2:36) we know that all admonition in the house of the Lord will be according to truth.

Sixth, the **disposition** of the Lord's house is one of peace: "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). From the most ancient times, man has strived against man (Gen. 4). The nations of men fight over boundaries, land, resources, and misspoken words; to gain what others have, men go to war. But in the Lord's house, there is peace. Men will not seek war. Men will not desire war. Men will not prepare for war. In the house of the Lord, man will enjoy a "peace that passeth understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

There is no kingdom among men that compares to the Lord's house which is the church of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15). Why not accept His invitation to come and "walk in the light of the Lord" (Isa. 2:5).

way. Sometimes we are guilty, but sometimes the child's perception of things is distorted by their own insecurities. Either way, it's something we have to learn to deal with, because if Genesis 37 teaches us anything, it is that favoritism (whether real or imagined) can create potentially devastating problems for our families.

Communication is the key. We have to be aware of how our children are feeling. Spending one on one time with them gives them the opportunity to vent their frustrations and express the favoritism they see (or think they see). It gives us an opportunity to explain our perspective and perhaps correct any misunderstanding they might have.

But communication is more than just an opportunity for us to learn what they are feeling or to correct their misunderstanding. The act of making the time to sit down and listen communicates value and builds trust in the relationship. It demonstrates for our kids that they are, in fact, important to us. It gives them the security they need to come to talk to us in the future when they start feeling neglected.

It's a sacrifice. If you have a lot of children like Jacob did, it's not easy to spend individual time with your kids. But it's essential if we want to let them know that we care about them.

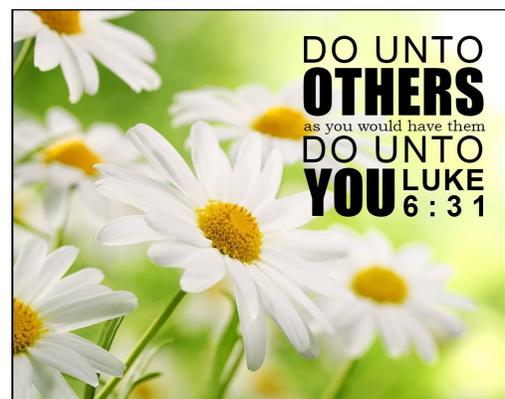
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Playing Favorites

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.

Genesis 37:3

If you have more than one child, you've been accused of playing favorites. It's almost impossible for a child to not feel this



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of January 31, 2021

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: Ron White
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido
A.M. Closing: James Cammock
P. M. Opening: Steve Randle
P. M. Closing: Rick Bass

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Doug Jobs
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Will Burleson

Open/Close Building:

There will be a Diaper/Wipe/Gift Card collection in lieu of a Baby Shower for Alex Moser. A table is set up in the hallway for your gifts. Congratulations Alex and Jesse.



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.

Men's Meeting

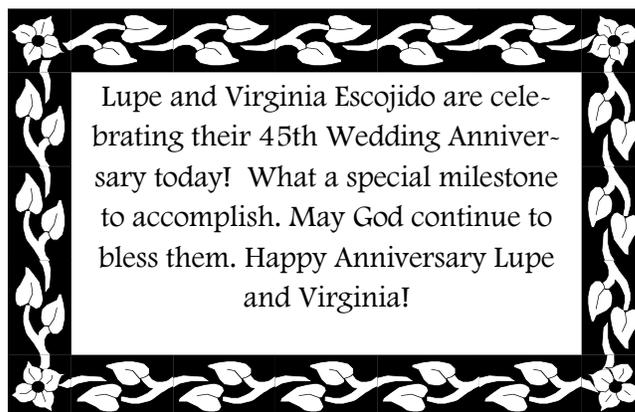
Men's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 7th at 3p.m.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Will Cleveland, a former member and Elder at Midtown. His mother, Rosa Lee passed away last week. Faye Henderson, who is at Citizens Hospital with COVID, pneumonia and possible heart attack. Tony Willis, a friend of the Scherffius family who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Happy Birthday: Richard Tisue (2)

Happy Anniversary Lupe and Virginia Escojido (31)



*****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 24, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....63
A.M. Worship.....76
Sunday Evening Worship.....44
Wednesday Bible Class.....44

Offering : January 24, 2021.....\$5,430

Reading for this week:

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution..."
Exodus 35:4-5

SUPPORTED WORKS

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

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