



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

June 13, 2021

Issue 24

Biblical Balance Ends With Attitudes

By: Ross Hafner

So much controversy, so much conflict! To answer the division present in the Lord's church today, many are calling for Biblical balance. I am sure some who are asking for balance actually mean, "There should be less preaching that expects me to change and more preaching that makes me feel good." Others mean, "Let's change the truth slightly so that it's easier to digest." Neither of these positions should be supported because they show a lack of concern for God's authority. Godly men and women are also calling for Biblical balance, but what does that mean, exactly? Simply put, it is the narrow way (Matt. 7:14). It means that we will not add to or take away from what scripture has said. We will bind only what God has bound and loose only where God has loosened by command, implication, or authorized example (Matt. 16:19, Col. 2:16). How will we know if someone truly wants balance? Certainly, it begins with God's word (Matt. 15:7-9) but it ends with attitudes.

Attitude Toward Study — Luke 8:18 reminds us that we have to be careful how we hear. A common misconception about Biblical balance is that it is about finding the truth that is in the middle of two positions. But if our standard becomes the middle of two positions our standard slides away from God's view over time as the culture changes. Was the truth somewhere in the middle when the Pharisees were arguing with Jesus? Certainly not. Biblical balance is about considering all that the Bible has to say about the subject instead of putting on blinders to the passages that disagree with my position.

Attitude Toward Reflection and Application — Reflection and application are about loving and doing all of God's law, not just the parts that agree with my thinking (Ps. 40:8). It is not one scripture against another, but one scripture in light of others. Reflection and application are about loving and doing only God's law and rejecting the counterfeit (Gal. 1:8-9).

Attitude Toward Repentance — This is where the rubber meets the road. Once I understand the proper application of the word in my life based on study and self-examination I must ask, "What am I going to do with this knowledge?" Consider some texts that can be understood in a Biblically balanced way.

1 John 1:7-9: All grace and no law? No. Constantly worried I am going to be eternally condemned if Jesus comes back right now? No. Keep walking in the light (which would involve correcting errors) and confessing fault and your sins will be covered.

Galatians 5:22-23: I'm fine as long as I have most of those down? No. I am weak in all those, therefore God must be so displeased with me? Not necessarily! I should respond by working on those things that are lacking. God graciously allows for time to grow.

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15: Call out every sin here and abroad without speaking to them first? No. Let it go and never question apparent sin? No. We should be diligent to mark, withdraw from, and admonish those who depart from the faith.

Being balanced is about striving to do all that the Bible says on a subject, with the proper attitude. The answer to division in the

Lord's church is not to justify ourselves by finding room in the middle. Neither do we solve the problem by looking to please those in our inner circle or those with greater influence in the brotherhood. Look to God's word for the answers and have the attitudes sufficient to make all necessary changes.

Ross Haffner preaches for the Colleyville Church of Christ, Colleyville, TX

Reaping the Good Things

Many of you have your summer gardens well underway and with the coming warmer weather you'll soon begin to harvest those good tomatoes, squash, okra, watermelons and more. But the growing of those good things didn't just happen by accident. You've spent many hours preparing and planting that garden so it will make that homegrown produce.

The bible warns us not to be fooled because God is not to be taken lightly. If we spend all of our time dedicated to our physical desires, at the end of time, we'll have nothing to harvest but corruption. But if we "plant" to the Spirit, that is the "fruit of the Spirit", we'll harvest everlasting life. (Galatians 6:7-8) There's no doubt about it, gardening is hard work. Living and serving the Lord is just as challenging. But we're assured in the scriptures that if we do not "grow weary while doing good" and don't lose heart, then when the season of our life is over, we will indeed reap the benefits of heaven. (Galatians 6:9) Just as you will share the harvest from your home gardens with the rest of us, the bible en-

courages Christians to share both their physical and spiritual blessings with those around them.

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Jay Launius – 2021

Maud church of Christ

Upcoming Wednesday Night Speakers in June

BECOMING CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON

June 16—Purging Personal "Leaven Of The Pharisees" (Ron White)

June 23— Does Every "Silver Lining" Have A Cloud? (Ronnie Scherffius)

June 30—Embracing Members Of Diverse Ages, Cultures, Income & Education (James Cammock)

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 13, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Lupe Escojido
Offering: James Cammock

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening: Fred Scherffius
P. M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Will Burleson

Open/Close Building:

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.**

If you would like to receive a "Golden Text"
from Ronnie every weekday morning with a
Bible scripture, please let him know. This is a
great way to start the day off!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Janie S. Hernandez, co-worker of Nina Siegel, who
will be having knee replacement surgery this week.
Jim Hutt, who is at home recovering from intestinal
surgery.

Happy Birthday: Jeff Harris (14); Ronnie Scherffius
(17); James Cammock (17)

Upcoming Events:

*TODAY!—Monthly youth devotional here at the
building after evening worship services. Please
bring 2.00 for pizza.*

*Sunday, June 13 & 20—Family Photos for our Pic-
ture Board.*

*Friday, June 25th—Monthly family fellowship
night here at the building at 6:30pm. Bring finger
foods and games.*

Area Events:

*June 26-30th—God Cares for You (Gospel meet-
ing, Door knocking campaign and Ladies Day) at
Natalia church of Christ.*

*August 7-8—Discipleship University. See flyer in
hallway for details.*

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.

MidTown Church of Christ

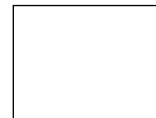
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 June 6, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	55
A.M. Worship.....	79
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	59
Wednesday Bible Class.....	69
Offering :	\$3,471

Reading for this week:

“And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and Brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.” Acts 23:1

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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