



# *Midtown Messenger*

Volume 4

June 6, 2021

Issue 23

## The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly

By: Anthony Scherffius

There is a story of three little boys. They all three played baseball and they had the same coach. Two of the boys were on the field practicing while the third was sitting on the ground, slacking off and not practicing. The coach watched all three of them and came up to the two boys practicing and told them what they were doing wrong. He critiqued them on their form, how they threw the ball, and how they hit the ball. One of the boys threw his bat down on the ground in rage, yelling at the coach, screaming, “How dare you tell me what I can and cannot do, I do not need you or your advice!” And stormed off. The kid playing around and slacking off saw the commotion and heard what happened. Even though he did not receive the criticism, because he was not doing his part for the team and instead, being silly, foolish, and unlearned, he still was aware of what happened and gained a small amount of wisdom. The third boy, the other one who received the rebuke but did not storm off, stood calmly and welcomed it. He knew he could learn from his mistakes and grow stronger from them, forcing him to do better for his team.

How do you respond to rebuke? Solomon presents three different outcomes to his son about rebuke and instruction. We find this lesson in (Proverbs 19:25)—“Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.” In this verse, as mentioned already, there are three different individuals: the Scoffer, the Simple, and the Man of Understanding. Before we look at the three different mindsets of how to receive rebuke, let us first define our words so we can have a

full understanding of what this text teaches us. “Strike [to smite, punish, beat, or hit] a scoffer [mock or scorne, one who is reckless, wild and rebellious], and the simple [silly, foolish, ignorant, or unlearned] will learn prudence [be prudent; shrewd; be the wiser; be aware]: and reprove [convince; judge; correct; argue with; instruct; construct critically] a man of understanding [discern; perceive], and he will gain/understand [discern; perceive] knowledge.” Now that we have defined our words, let us discuss our three attitudes and learn a valuable lesson.

**The Scornor**—The first one we see is the scorner who completely rejects godly wisdom and hates righteous instruction. The heart of the scorner is completely against what God says and has no respect for human authority. He is defiant, utterly unteachable, and “does not listen to rebuke” (Proverbs 13:1). The one who is a scoffer rejects those who correct him because he does not care and has no desire for spiritual council. “A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise” (Proverbs 15:12).

**The Simple**—The second individual is the simple man. Even though he is silly and foolish, he observes the punishment of the scoffer and is made the wiser. He will gain wisdom in the situation and be more aware of how to conduct himself in the next occurrence.

**The Man of Understanding**—The third individual is described as having understanding. He heeds to the advice of the one giving the rebuke and is made wise by godly counsel. Unlike the foolish man or the scorner, he is

open-minded and open-hearted to constructive criticism, always looking for ways to improve so he might be able to glorify God all the better. He does not think of himself and dismisses authority, but rather seeks out the godly wisdom. He seeks out and welcomes with open arms advice from those full of wisdom and experience.

Application—So, how can we apply this proverb to our lives today? We have to remember, Solomon's counsel, wisdom, and great advice written in this text and the book as a whole was directed to his son who one day would take the throne and reign as king. Our nation's leaders, judges, teachers, lawgivers, and rulers would be wise to take into consideration the constructive criticism and corrective discipline for the Spiritual well-being of the country they lead. But not only should those in higher office heed to rebuke that builds up, but we too should do the same. When one receives criticism or rebuke from those who try to help or have the authority to do so, we can only be as those spoken of in this lesson. Which one are we? Are we the scorner, the one who looks in the eye of authority and spits in its face? Do we completely reject the advice given to us because we have no desire to live godly, and instead desire to live worldly with our own lusts? Are we the simple? The one ignorant and silly who just sits by and observes, becoming more aware? Or are we the one who is actively seeking the advice of the godly, and receiving constructive criticism? Are we expecting of improvement, so we may be better equipped to teach others, grow spiritually, and worship God? Which one are you?

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### **The Darkside Hackers**

By: Dale Pollard

Beware the DarkSide. No, that's not a Star Wars reference. Just a few short weeks ago a cyber-gang who call themselves the "DarkSide" hacked the Colonial Pipeline and sparked a string of panic buyers to

funnel jugs and containers full of gasoline. On May 7th the hacked pipeline authorized the ransom sum of \$4.4 million to be transferred to the gang to try and settle this concerning situation. An odd spree of events and details shroud this whole thing and for those of us not familiar with the technological aspects, it seems even more unsettling. As Christians it's okay to keep an eye on the latest events and protect yourself and family, but our watchful eyes would be far better put to use when it comes to our homes, personal faith, and church families. Take a look at what Jesus said in Matthew 7:15.

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

There are false prophets and messages everywhere in our world. They're doing their best to hack into our spiritual lives and they've been successful at doing so. When our guards are down they blend in with the flock and disguise themselves with a counterfeit truth. Thankfully our Savior gives us the solution to uncovering their scheme before they get the chance. He says, "By their fruit you will recognize them..." We have an assurance given to us in Matthew 7:16 which guarantees we will not become a victim of these spiritual hackers. The wolves seek to drag us to the dark side, but with a watchful eye and the protection of the Father they can't succeed. You won't see any of this covered in the News but the good news is we have the Good News. It's powerful and it's always accurate. Be on the alert and stay watchful for the things that deserve the energy and our attention.

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## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 6, 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: Bill York  
A.M. Closing: Bryce Dolan  
P. M. Opening: Steve Randle  
P. M. Closing: Ron White

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass  
Sun. P.M.: Fred Scherffius  
Wed. P.M.: Kirk FitzSimmons

**Ushers:** Allen Clifton

**Greeters:** Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devo:** Doug Jobes

**Open/Close Building:**

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**Sermons are available on our website**

**[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)**

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services  
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search  
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

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Kids Summer Series "Treasures in the Book of Job" starts Wednesday, June 9 and goes through August.

Adult Summer Series "Conforming to the Image of His Son" starts Wednesday, June 9 through August 25th. There is a flyer in the hallway.

The new Summer quarter starts today!

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jim Hutt, who had intestinal surgery this past week.  
Mike McVey, who was in the hospital this past week under observation.

Happy Birthday: Draven Garcia (8); Dalton Shafer (9); Helen Cannady (10)

### *Upcoming Events:*

*TODAY—Monthly fellowship meal following morning worship service with an afternoon service at 1 pm following. Please bring a potluck meal. There will not be a 5pm service.*

*Sunday, June 13th—Monthly youth devotional here at the building after evening worship services. Please bring 2.00 for pizza.*

*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 meeting, Door knocking campaign and Ladies Day) at Natalia church of Christ.*

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

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## 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

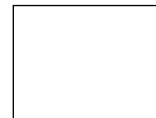
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### MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### 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 May 30, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	73
A.M. Worship.....	103
Sunday Evening Worship.....	66
Wednesday Bible Class.....	48
Offering : .....	\$3,103

#### Reading for this week:

“A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.” Proverbs 18:16

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#### SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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#### GO PAPERLESS!

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