



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

April 11, 2021

Issue 15

Revealing Truth

By: Ronnie Scherffius

In a recent study, we considered the account of Isaac's dwelling among the Philistines. During this time he concealed the truth of his relationship with Rebekah (Gen. 26:1-16). From the patriarch's dishonesty, we noted that truth concealed is a friend of fear, robs men of freedom, and puts men in jeopardy. From the same text, we also learn valuable lessons about the truth when it is revealed.

First, the truth revealed is restrictive. After learning that Isaac and Rebekah were married, Abimelech straightly charged, "He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death" (Gen 26:11). Two restrictions are clear, no man could touch Rebekah, for she was the wife of another man, and no man could harm Isaac that they might have Rebekah as his own (cf. v. 7). When the truth is revealed restrictions became evident.

This principle is also the truth regarding the truth of God's word. Paul wrote, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). The Galatians had been convinced by false teachers that, as Gentiles, they were required to keep the old law. Paul insisted that they had been "called not liberty" both from sin and from the old law, which condemned but provided no means of redemption. However, he warned them not to use their liberty from the law, as a license to sin. The same gospel that set them free is also restrictive.

Peter noted that the truth of the gospel restricts us from returning to the pollutions of

the world from which we have escaped (2 Pt. 2:20). John likewise admonished that the truth restricts us from walking in darkness if we hope to maintain our fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:5-7). Truth revealed is restrictive.

Second, the truth revealed is protective. For fear of his life, Isaac hid the fact that Rebekah was his wife. But the revelation of the truth brought protection rather than destruction (cf. 11).

Scripture is clear that the revelation of truth is protective. When one has a knowledge of the truth they know in which path to walk: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105). When the truth is made known, one understands right from wrong: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psalm 119:130). John noted that truth protects us from committing sin: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not" (1 Jn. 2:1a).

The word of God is truth (Jn. 17:17). The truth of God's word has been revealed that we might know that Jesus is the Christ, and that believing we might have eternal life in His name (Jn.20:30, 31). May we ever strive to make known the truth to others that they might keep themselves from sin and guard their souls against the adversary (1 Pt. 5:8).

A Life without Standards

Can you imagine what it would be like if we had no standards in the world today? Everywhere you look there is something that is standardized. According to Webster's Dictionary a standard applies to any definite rule, principle, or measure established by authority. Consider these examples and think of how chaotic things might be if there were no standards to go by.

Buying a pair of shoes. Suppose you went to the store and attempted to buy shoes and there were no standard sizes. The first thing you might do is to choose the style of shoe you want to wear. Then you must find shoes that fit, here lies the problem. There are no sizes marked on the shoes because there are no standard sizes. Not only that, but there were no standard categories for the shoes. Shoes for men, women, and kids would be all in the same place and because there are no sizes to divide the shoes, you would have to search through who knows how many pair to find the type shoe you wanted. Oh, and by the way, shoes don't come in pairs (that's a standard too). So now you are searching through a huge inventory of unmatched, un-sized shoes. Who knows how long it would take to find a matching pair, then would they be the same size? And would that size fit your foot?

What about fishing? All fishermen know that the law requires a standard length for certain fish before they can be kept. But what if there was no standard to measure the fish by? Many of you fishermen reading this right now are thinking "Boy that would be great!" But hang on for a minute. Be-

cause there is no standard, there is no guidance for the game warden to make a judgment about your catch. Therefore if he thought that your fish was too small or that you had too many fish in your live well, how could you argue if he had the authority to make his own decisions based upon his opinion and not the standard of the law? Besides, how could you describe the big one that got away if you could describe it using inches or pounds?

Standards are important, especially in matters of religion. In order to be pleasing to God we must follow His standard, the Holy Bible. Inspired by Him (through the Spirit) it contains the ruler, the yardstick, the scale by which all of mankind will be judged. Jesus said, "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48). So when it comes to determining what is right and wrong, how to become a Christian, how to properly worship God, there is only one standard. It is not a standard written by men, determined by some council or board but a divine guide for all of our life, service and worship to the Heavenly Father. If we are to have real unity, if all believers are to worship and serve God together as Jesus desired us to do (John 17), then we must let go of our traditions, our opinions and let God's Word be our guide in all truth, God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Without a standard chaos reigns, if you doubt that then take a look at the state of religion today. Please include in your daily prayers that we can all begin to follow God's standard in unity, in spirit, in love and in Jesus Christ!

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 11, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Lupe Escojido
Offering: Doug Jobs

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening: Doug Jobs
P. M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass
Sun. P.M.: Isaac Jobs
Wed. P.M.: Fred Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Ronnie Scherffius

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:

Please keep the shut-ins and other members that
have ongoing health issues in your prayers.

Happy Birthday: Jennifer Miles (7) Maren and
Audrey Fielder (8); Bill Davis, Shiloh Cammock
(11); Kelly Cannady (14); Nia FitzSimmons, Sandra
Marie (17)

Happy Anniversary: Desmon & Naomi Flonnory
(9); Robert and Pam Stryker (14)

Upcoming Events:

*April 11: Youth devo at the church building after
evening worship. Please bring \$2.00 for pizza. If
you can donate individual size snack cakes,
drinks and chips, please put them in the kitchen.*

*April 24: Wedding Reception for Anthony and
Hailey at 12 noon at the building. A meal will be
provided.*

*April 25-28: Spring Gospel meeting with speak-
er Justin Guess hosted by Midtown. There are
flyers in the hallway.*

*****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

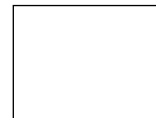
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 April 4, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	59
A.M. Worship.....	89
Sunday Evening Worship.....	65
Wednesday Bible Class.....	42
Offering :	\$3,613

Reading for this week:

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13: 34-35

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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