



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

April 25, 2021

Issue 17

Is The Gospel Still Relevant Today?

By: Trent Kennedy

For the past two years there has been one unread text message on my phone. It is from August 7, 2018. My brother in Christ, Brandon, sent a message that simply says “Thanks!”. I met Brandon just a few days before that. He had met a Christian businessman in central Texas who moved out to San Angelo. After finding some online resources and studying for himself, Brandon reached out to his friend who reached out to me. Brandon was a wealthy, single man of about 50 who drove a fancy car and had a huge heart. On Saturday, August 4, the two of us sat down at the church building and studied with Brandon for the better part of two hours. We studied the power of God (Gen. 1; Rom. 1:18-20), the character of God (Exo. 3:1-6, 34:6-7; 1 Pet. 1:16; 1 Jn. 4:16); the nature of sin (Isa. 59:1-2; Hab. 1:13; Rom. 3:23, 6:23); the deity, humanity, and humility of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11; Jn. 1:1-27); and the sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Then, we took a long, hard, honest look at how the Scriptures, the gospel, could change Brandon’s life (Rom. 1:16-17). He clearly understood that the saving blood of Jesus could wash him clean (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:27). After dozens of questions about the Christian life that were answered from the Bible and a long discussion about repentance (Acts 17:30-31), Brandon was baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4). He followed the New Testament commands (Acts 2:37-38) and the example of conversion (Acts 8:31-35). The gospel changed Brandon. His heart had been softened, the soil was honest and good, and the seed of the kingdom produced fruit. Two weeks later, Brandon left Bible class not feel-

ing right and passed away at his home. A middle-aged man with a big bank account, a fancy car, and stories to tell counted those things as refuse for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. Is the gospel relevant today? It is to the man who searched his whole life for meaning and only found its purpose just a few weeks before he died.

One year (2010 I think) while doing campaign work in Jamaica, I hired a local Jamaican to drive for us. Soon after I met Mr. Butler, I learned he was a Christian who had left the church - a backslider in local terminology. Mr. Butler quietly drove us around from Bible study to Bible study. Soon, he noticed some differences in our team and the tourists he regularly drove around. We dressed differently. We talked differently. We laughed and cried about different things. He saw that we were trying very hard to live the gospel and to teach it to the lost souls in Jamaica (Rom. 12:1-2). A few days in, Mr. Butler began asking questions, began attending the nightly gospel meetings, and coordinating some of our Bible studies to be more efficient. Before the week was over, he was restored (1 Jn. 1:8-10). He knew that tomorrow is never promised but Christ is indeed coming again (Jas. 4:14; 2 Pet. 3:10). The Jamaicans love to sing choruses like “give me that old time religion; it’s good enough for Jesus it’s good enough for me!” Is the gospel still relevant today? It is to my brother and co-worker who saw the gospel lived out and changed his life.

The same gospel that converted Saul from killer to Christian brought a Catholic into

Christ after he visited the McCarty Center nearly a decade ago. He now labors as a preacher near Houston. The same gospel that gave hope to the Philippian jailor when he was in despair was (and is) very relevant to the young lady I studied with a few years ago when she chose to turn from the world of promiscuity, drug use, and worldliness. She and her husband are committed to faithfully serving the Lord. The examples, named and unnamed, could go on and on. I've watched the power of the gospel as I have sat across the table from agnostics, atheists, apathetics, sinners, backsliders, and devout denominationalists. An open bible and an open mind are powerful tools when used in tandem. The same gospel that saved souls in Israel, Thessalonica, and Rome two thousand years ago still changes hearts, lives, and eternities in the US, Jamaica, Paraguay, Cambodia, Singapore, and across the world. I know, I've seen it with my own eyes.

Sin still separates, souls are still lost, God still reigns, the blood still saves, Christ is still coming, and the gospel is still relevant.

From *The Christian Worker* (September, 2020)

Trent Kennedy presently serves as Dean of Academics and full time instructor for the Four Seas College of the Bible and Missions in Singapore



April 25-28, 2021

Building Up The Church with Justin Guess



Sunday

- 9 a.m. A Word Fitly Spoken (Prov. 25:11)
- 10 a.m. A Readiness to Sacrifice
(Ex. 35:20-29; 36:5-7)
- 5 p.m. A Mind to Work (Neh. 4:6)

Monday

- 7 p.m. A Servant's Posture (Jn. 13:4,5)

Tuesday

- 7 p.m. A Heart of Love (Jn. 13:34,35)

Wednesday

- 7 p.m. A Will To Forgive (Lk. 17:3,4)

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 25, 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: Steve Randle
A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran
P. M. Opening: Lupe Escojido
P. M. Closing: Isaac Jobs

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Gospel Meeting

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:

Sabrina Phillips, friend of Emily Cammock, who is
having medical issues.

Happy Birthday: Caley Hunter (May 1)

Happy Anniversary: Clifton and Jackie Rutherford
(May 1)

Upcoming Events:

*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

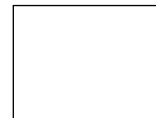
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 18, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	46
A.M. Worship.....	65
Sunday Evening Worship.....	45
Wednesday Bible Class.....	44
Offering :	\$3,260

Reading for this week:

“Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.” Joshua 23:11

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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