



Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

December 27, 2020

Issue 52

What Do You See That Is So Valuable?

By: Ronnie Scherffius

An American tourist in Paris who purchased an inexpensive amber necklace in a trinket shop was shocked when he had to pay quite a high duty on it to clear customs in New York. His curiosity aroused, he decided to have it appraised to discover its true value. After looking at the object under a magnifying glass, the jeweler said, "I'll give you \$15,000 for it." Greatly surprised, the man decided to have another expert examine it. The second jeweler, more prominent and qualified than the first, carefully examined the "trinket" and immediately offered the man \$30,000.

"What do you see that is so valuable about this old necklace," asked the astonished man.

"Look through this glass," replied the jeweler. There before his eyes was an inscription: *From Napoleon to Josephine*. The value of the necklace came from its identification with a famous person.

How much like our value as Christians! Speaking to Jehovah Abraham declared that he was but "dust and ashes" (Gen. 18:27); called upon to deliver God's people Moses inquired, "Who am I" (Ex. 3:11); in prayer to God Daniel cried out "hear the prayer of thy servant" (Dan. 9:17). To the world, Christians may be of little consequence. In fact, Christians are held in great contempt in the eyes of popular culture. Nevertheless, as children of God we are of great value to our heavenly Father! The psalmist wrote:

"When I consider thy heavens,
the work of thy fingers, the

moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:" (Ps. 8:3-6)

As much as humanity is the pinnacle of God's creation, all of humanity are greatly loved by God. Jesus declared that God, "maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt. 5:45). John instructed that the sacrificial love of God measured only by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross was for "the world" (Jn. 3:16). However, those who are a part of that "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Pt. 2:9) are of special value to God.

Our value is not determined by our earthly lineage, notable secular achievements, or even a life characterized by moral integrity. While some may receive honor and recognition by their peers, to wear the name of Christ and to be a citizen in the kingdom of the Son of God is the highest status and the greatest honor to which one can attain.

You may never be glorified before the world for great achievements. Your name may never be listed among the 'Who's Who' in this world. But to hear your name called among the faithful by the Redeemer of humanity in

the day that Christ comes in glory to appraise the whole of the human race – Oh what glory that will be! Of what great value we are because we wear the name Christian!

Jesus Knows & Cares

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:18

"But you don't understand."

It's hard for us to trust someone who is trying to help us when they don't understand what we're going through. I feel unqualified when dealing with someone going through a nasty divorce; someone trying to raise children as a single parent; someone dealing with the loss of a child; or someone who is experiencing chronic pain of some kind.

However, we know Jesus can sympathize with whatever we're going through. He knew physical pain. He suffered the most agonizing death imaginable.

Jesus knew emotional and spiritual pain. He had his closest friends forsake him and betray him.

Jesus knew stress. His stress didn't come from a selfish desire for protection, but because he felt an overwhelming burden for other people (thousands at a time on occasion). Jesus experienced sleepless nights when he would pray and find comfort that only God could give him.

What a blessing that we can carry all of our burdens and share them with him, knowing that he will listen with sympathy and respond with grace.

-Selected-

Grace & Obedience

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

Titus 3:8

What is the "trustworthy" saying Paul is referring to here and what are "these things" he says Titus should insist?

In a word: GRACE! (Read Titus 3:4-7 for the context.)

Doesn't that seem strange? How is it that teaching on grace would encourage people to be careful to obey God? Why would grace motivate good works?

I think sometimes we fear grace because we doubt the ability of grace to motivate obedience and good works. We fear that if we truly embrace grace and completely immerse ourselves in it that we'll forget about our personal responsibility. We're afraid that if we talk about it too much or allow ourselves to meditate on it too much that we'll become careless and fail to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

But, as is so oftentimes the case, our intuition is backward. The reality is that when we talk about grace and think about grace and live in grace that it produces in us carefulness and seriousness and soberness in our daily struggle against sin. Nothing can motivate us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" more than the thought that "it is God who works in us both to will and to do for his good pleasure."

Let us not forget that grace is both the beginning and the end of our salvation. It is not only the basis of our salvation, but it serves as the strongest and most reliable motivation for our obedience.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of December 27, 2020

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: James Cammock
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Dale Hill
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening: Bryce Dolan
P. M. Closing: Steve Randle

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Bryce Dolan

Open/Close Building: Dolans/Burleson

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

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

Please check the 2021 working copy of the Pocket Directory in the foyer. Make any corrections and if everything is correct, put a check mark by your family name. Thank you!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Luann Rogers, former member of Midtown, who is now at home recovering from COVID. Roy Arnot, who is in the hospital with COVID and pneumonia. Veronica Serenil, who had surgery in Sugarland last week.

Happy Birthday: Kelson Jacobs (28); Shirley Page (Jan. 1)

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 3, 2021: Men's Meeting @3pm

Feb. 13, 2021: Ladies' Day hosted by Midtown.

Janet Morales will be taking family pictures for our Bulletin Board on January 3rd & 10th, 2021.

*****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 December 20, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....	35
A.M. Worship.....	43
Sunday Evening Worship.....	NA
Wednesday Bible Class.....	NA

Offering : December 20, 2020.....\$3,636

Reading for this week:

...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that
comes judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

