



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

March 14, 2021

Issue 11

Saving Time?

By: Ronnie Scherffius

In an 1895 Letter to the Editor in the *Journal of Paris*, Ben Franklin suggested a new system of sleeping and waking based on the sun rather than clocks. That same year New Zealand entomologist, George Hudson, proposed a two-hour time shift to allow himself more time to hunt bugs in the summer months. In 1902, William Willet recommended the British Parliament move clocks forward to “prevent the nation from wasting daylight.” But it was not until World War I that England initiated Willet’s proposal. Other European countries, as well as the United States, soon followed. On March 19, 1918, Congress enacted the *Standard Time Act* establishing time zones in the U.S. and beginning what we know today as *Daylight Saving Time*.

The idea of saving time by “springing forward” is ridiculous on its face. As the sage chief of one Native American tribe commenting on *Daylight Saving Time* observed: “Only a white man would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket and sew it to the bottom and have a longer blanket.” Man does not possess the ability to lengthen time or shorten time.

Time is not a tangible possession. It cannot be saved, stored, or treasured up. But time should be a valued treasure! Time idioms abound in the English language. “Here today, gone tomorrow,” “in the blink of an eye,” “better late than never,” are just a few of the dozens of idioms we use of time every day. We often complain there is “not enough time in the day” when the truth is we do not “manage time wisely.” The phrase *Daylight*

Saving Time is a misnomer. The original thought and purpose of “changing time” was not to “save” it but to make better use of it.

The Preacher noted, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven” (Eccl. 3:1 - ASV). Are we using our time for the right purposes? The greater balance of our time should be used for spiritual endeavors. How much time do we spend strengthening our faith through a study of God’s word? How much time do we spend in prayer? How much time do we spend seeking opportunities to help others? How much time do we spend seeking and saving the lost? How much time do we spend encouraging others with positive words and deeds? For what purposes do we spend our time?

Jesus observed, “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Lk. 16:8). This unorthodox praise of a worldly generation teaches us that earthly things are not our possessions but have been put into our trust to be used wisely for spiritual purposes. We are stewards of all that God has given us. Has not God given us *His* time to use wisely for *His* purposes?

Judge Not That You Be Not Judged

Matthew 7:1-5 contains that well known verse, "Judge not that you be not judged."

This has been a misquoted and misunderstood section of scripture because some have taken this to mean that Jesus is implying that not judging someone involves a complete acceptance of a sinful lifestyle. This obviously isn't the case since later in this same chapter He tells us that we can judge others based on their fruits. How will we know if a "sheep" is really a "wolf" in disguise?

We can sort the wool from the wolves by judging the actions of both.

Some level of judgment then must be passed on our part, but this is not to be an action of belittlement. Jesus will masterfully use the illustration of the plank-eyed man attempting to remove a speck out of another's eye. Notice how our Lord doesn't reprimand the attempt to remove the speck, but that we can see the speck better when that metaphorical plank is removed from our own eye.

Jesus is not teaching an acceptance of sin, nor is it a lack of love. Unconditional love is a requirement, but Jesus shows that it is possible to love the sinner, and hate the sin. A speck can keep us from the narrow gate just as easily as a plank can— and both should be removed.

Here are three thoughts to consider on these verses

- Our own planks aren't as obvious to us as they are to others. Before becoming agitated and aggravated with a brother or sister we should keep in mind that they may not know what is so obvious to others.
- Our eyes must be clear if we are ever going to help others.

- Jesus is not saying we shouldn't help, but that we are required to.

-Selected-

A Prophet Like Moses

Moses in so many ways gave us a glimpse of the role our Savior Jesus Christ would play for us:

1. Moses was a lawgiver. He went up Mount Sinai and received the Law from God.

2. Moses was a deliverer. He led his people out of bondage in Egypt.

Moses was a sin bearer. He did not literally bear their sin, but when God wanted to destroy them after the golden calf Moses asked God to take his name out of his book in their place (Ex 32:32).

1. Moses was a shepherd. He led his people through the wilderness for forty years.

Moses was a mediator. The people could not approach God (nor did they want to), and so Moses did that for them.

But as great as Moses was in all of these roles, Jesus surpassed him in every way. "Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant... but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son." (Heb 3:5-6) Moses was a faithful servant in God's house. He was so close to God that we're told he met with God face to face. However, Christ Jesus is able to intercede for us as God's Son in a way Moses never could.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of March 14, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: James Cammock
Offering: Bryant Siegel

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Steve Randle
A.M. Closing: Doug Jobs
P. M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran
P. M. Closing: Kirk FitzSimmons

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Ron White

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.**

Ladies, Did You Know?

Southwest church of Christ issues a quarterly women's publication called "Upright Woman". It educates, promotes, and encourages women of the church to strive for righteousness in every aspect of life. There are some copies in the pamphlet racks in the foyer.

New Address for Millie Jamison is 27 Hunter's
Rill, Lapeer, MI 48446

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Mike McVey, who had an injection on his back for pain and tests on his lungs. Millie Jamison, who has cancer which caused her to fall and break her hip. She is at home with Hospice. Mary Jo White, who is recovering from a mild stroke. Barbara Withers, who is having physical therapy on her right leg. Bill Young, who is having tests and an MRI done.

Happy Birthday: Connie Kasper (19); Manny Flornory (20)

Upcoming Events:

MidTown's Spring Gospel meeting is April 25-28th, 2021 with guest speaker Justin Guess. Please make plans to attend.

Study Resources on Midtown's Website

Have you had a chance to look at Midtown's new website? Check out our Study Resources tab or click on this link:

<https://midtowncoc.org/ministries/study->

*****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

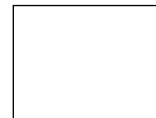
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 March 7, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	58
A.M. Worship.....	75
Sunday Evening Worship.....	53
Wednesday Bible Class.....	47
Offering :	\$3,259

Reading for this week:

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."

1 Peter 3:14

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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