



Midtown Messenger

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Issue 22

THE MEMORIAL AUDIO REPRODUCTION SYSTEM

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Have you ever heard of the *Memorial Audio Reproduction System*? I would suppose you have not, but then few have. According to its patent (U. S. patent number 4,169,970), it is summarized as follows: “An audio reproduction system is provided for use in conjunction with a tombstone for the repeated playback, upon activation, of a prerecorded message.” In other words, before you de cease, you can make an audio recording of yourself (up to two hours long). The recording is stored in an electronic device in your monument. The playback of your recording is affected by a motion detector. All passing by your grave will hear your final message. Imagine walking through a graveyard and hearing someone call to you from the grave!

What would be your message from the grave? How much would you be willing to pay for the ability to ‘speak from the grave’ to passers-by? (The latest pricing I could find was from 1981 - \$10,000!) Well, as my grandfather would say, “hold your horses”! The truth of the matter is, you do not need to pay for a fancy gizmo to speak from the grave. How you are living now, your words, deeds, example, and influence will continue till the end of time!

The Hebrews writer noted: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4). Though it is not expressly stated, every person mentioned throughout Hebrews 11 continues to speak to us today. The voices of the faithful of God reverberate through the centuries; their lives are exam-

ples for us to follow. For instance, Noah is an example of faithful obedience (Heb. 11:7; cf. Gen. 6:22); Abraham is an example of faithful following (Heb. 11:8, 9); Moses is an example of faithful suffering (Heb. 11:25, 26). Paul would admonish the Corinthians, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). And the saints at Philippi were instructed, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example” (Phil. 3:17). The message from the graves of the righteous is “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1).

Voices from the grave are not limited to the righteous dead; the unrighteous also speak to us from the grave. Jude wrote that “Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7). In other words, the ‘Sodomites and Gomorrhians’) I just made that word up!) not only speak from the grave but also warn us; pleading with us not to live as they lived lest we suffer a similar condemnation.

The point of all of this is simple. Our lives compose a voluminous library recorded for all who follow after and played back with great volume by those whose lives we touch and who follow our example. Some suggest that what we do affects only ourselves (What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas?!). But the truth is, by our lives, good or bad, we speak from the grave. What will your memorial say to the world?

Letting Go of a Grudge

How many of you have a hard time letting go of a grudge? You deeply resent someone for something they said or did, and you refuse to forgive that person. You can't forget it. You keep talking to others about it. You plot to get even.

Herodias held a grudge against John because he had pointed out sin in her life. "Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him..." (Read Mark 6:17-28).

Maybe none of us would go as far as Herodias with our grudges but often they cause us to live with great bitterness that causes us to lash out at others. How many relationships have been destroyed? How many times have we destroyed another's character or reputation? Why? Because we would not let the thing rest until the opportunity to get even finally arrived.

Holding grudges can ruin your soul, the soul of others and bring great reproach upon Christ and His church. So, let's learn how God teaches us to let go of a grudge before we do any more harm.

Be willing to forgive and forget.

- This is not an option (Mat. 6:12, 14-15).
- God teaches us to forgive (Eph. 4:30; Col. 3:13) and forget (Heb. 8:12).

Read Mat. 18:21-35. Peter's offer of seven times was generous, three times was the going rate, but Jesus teaches us to put no limits on our forgiveness.

Don't keep a record of the wrongs you have suffered.

- Love refuses to keep any record of wrongs you may feel you have suffered (1 Cor. 13:5 "thinks no evil" – the word translated "thinks" here means "to take an inventory, count, number" according to Strong's Greek).
- Does your spouse ever get historical? Not hysterical, but does your spouse like to bring up the mistakes you have made in the past, counting them off one after another? We need to leave those things in the past and quit bringing them up again and again.

Look for good in the other person.

- Love makes a diligent effort to see the good in the other person (1 Cor. 13:7 "believes all things" – thinks the best of the other person, gives that the person the benefit of the doubt rather than always being suspicious).

Paul taught us to focus our thoughts on the good not the bad (Phi. 4:8).

Reject a "get even" spirit.

- Paul teaches us that a true Christian will make every effort to get along with others, doing them good despite how they may treat us, and let God take care of righting all the wrongs (Rom. 12:17-21).

- Paul followed his own inspired teaching when he was wronged (2 Tim. 4:14 "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.") Leaving it all with God, will bring peace to your heart but holding hatred in your heart will hurt you much more than all the injustices, wrongs and hurts you may have received from others.

Repent of your sins.

- Herodias needed to repent of her wrongdoing, and not take it out on the preacher. We must all sorrow in a godly way that we might repent of our sins when such is called for and lay aside our bitterness, jealousy, anger, vengeance and hatred towards others (2 Cor. 7:10).

Go to the person and work it out between yourselves.

- Follow the Scriptures and go to the one you feel has offended you and work it out between yourselves. Matthew 5:23-25 tells us what to do if we are in the wrong. Matthew 18:15-17 and Luke 17:3 tells us what to do if our brother is in the wrong.

Privately, but personally confront the issue.

Don't talk behind their back and tell everyone else about it.

Grudge bearing can be serious and has eternal consequences. Let us always give diligence to follow God's advice and eliminate holding grudges at home, school, or wherever they may exist..."looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Heb. 12:15).

God could have held a lot of grudges against us, but He forgives and forgets it all (Heb.

8:12)! Won't you receive His forgiveness, today?

(This article was adapted from "Nursing A Grudge" by **Darryl Jocheus**)

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 30, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Ron White
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: James Cammock
A.M. Closing: Isaac Jobes
P. M. Opening: Ron White
P. M. Closing: Fred Scherffius

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass
Sun. P.M.: Isaac Jobes
Wed. P.M.: Doug Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Mark FitzSimmons

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.**

Kids Summer Series "Treasures in the Book of Job" starts Wednesday, June 9 and goes through August. We are in need of individual size chips, small bottled water and box juice drinks. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

The new Summer quarter starts Sunday, June 6th.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jeff Cannady, who will be having tests and medical procedures done. Mani Pagidipalli, in India. There are many cases of COVID there. Tim Vigil, Rieke Bass' son, who is battling serious health issues.

Happy Birthday: Zachary Serenil (May 31), Myra FitzSimmons (June 1), Abigail Pawlik, Valerie Ramsey (June 2); Caidin Serenil (June 3)

Happy Anniversary: Brant & Anna Jacobs (30); Kevin & Imelda Sheeran (31)

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 6th—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.

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

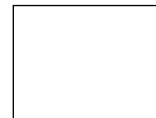
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 23, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	48
A.M. Worship.....	70
Sunday Evening Worship.....	44
Wednesday Bible Class.....	55
Offering :	\$3,506

Reading for this week:

“And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness; now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.” Hosea 7:2

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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