

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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We Trusted

By Ronnie Scherffius

In his gospel account, Luke records a conversation Jesus had with two of His disciples (Luke 24:13-31). This conversation took place following Jesus' death and resurrection. Overwhelmed with grief and disbelief, these two disciples, one named Cleopas, were amazed that Jesus (whose identity was hidden) was unaware of the recent turn of events in Jerusalem. "Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" was Cleopas' reply to Jesus' inquiry as to their sad state (vs. 17, 18). In response, Jesus asked, "What things?" (19); to which the men recited:

Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulcher; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulcher, and found it even so as the women had

said: but him they saw not. (Luke 24: 19-24)

Jesus' reply to these words was direct and somewhat reprimanding: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (vs. 24, 25) The reason (and need) for this admonition is evidently seen in the statement of the men, "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel" (v. 21). These two, as Jesus' other disciples, did not trust in all that the prophets had spoken but their own traditions and expectations of who and what the Messiah would be. They were correct in trusting that Jesus would redeem Israel. The sacrifice He made and the blood He shed only days before had accomplished just that purpose. However, because they trusted in their own ideas and traditions, not only were their eyes "holden that they should not know him" but their hearts were holden from Jesus as well.

We find similar circumstances in the religious world today. Trusting in creeds, catechisms, conventions, confessions of faith, and church manuals, sectarians, and protestants cannot see the true Christ. They trust that His kingdom will soon come, not seeing that it is established already (Col. 1:12; Heb. 12:28; etc.). They trust that the "signs of the times" reveal that His coming is soon not understanding that His coming will be as a thief in the night (2 Pet. 3:10). Like the Jews before them, blinded by manmade traditions, they trust that Christ will be as they want Him to be, not as God has determined that He is (cf. Mt. 16:21-23).

Even in the Lord's church, many are blind and trust in their own wisdom. Trusting in their own wisdom, they fail to "grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord" (2 Pet. 3:18). Because of this, they are unable to fulfill the divine charge to defend their hope and faith (1 Pet. 3:15). Trusting that a few minutes of study in a Bible class each Sunday and Wednesday and listening to the preacher twice each week they fail to study and grow by the sincere milk of the word (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:2) and are unable to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Failing to take heed of those things that were written aforetime and trusting in their own conscience, many forget the covenant they have made with God and allow things of this world to take priority over the more important spiritual matters. They forget that God is a jealous God and will not fail to punish his children who put the world before Him (Deut. 6:13-14). Trusting that others bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4) they wonder why in later years their children no longer worship with the saints. Trusting in their own strength and abilities to

"quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" and failing to take heed to the admonition to "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" and "put on the whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:10, 11), they find themselves overwhelmed in the world and drowning in a flood of temptations sent forth by Satan through his emissaries whom they have chosen as their closest associates.

The Jews trusted in what they supposed the Messiah would be and could not see Him walking with them in this world. The sectarians today, like their Jewish counterparts, trust in their own traditions and cannot see the kingdom of God in the world nor God's simple plan for reconciliation. Sadly, many Christians trust that God will overlook their iniquities and excuse their willful disobedience. Like Naaman of long ago, many will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, stammering and stuttering with little more to utter than the empty phrase "Behold, I thought" (2 Kings 5:11). Dear friend, in what are you trusting?

He said it, so I did it

Article selected, image from Bible Land Passages

The man had been blind from birth (**John 9:1**). Don't you know that he longed to see with his entire being! Jesus came and spit on the ground, "made clay with the saliva" and "anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay" (9:6). Can you imagine being the blind man and having someone else do that to you? Then, Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (9:7).

"Excuse me. How in the world is dirt, spit and pool water going to make any difference? This makes no sense. Just give me a towel, let me wipe this off my face and go away." Can you picture someone thinking and even saying that in this situation? Perhaps many would.

The text says, "So he went and washed" (9:7). When the man retold the story, he said, "So I went and washed" (9:11). Look at the word "so." Jesus said it, "SO" I did it. It didn't matter what "it" was! He said it—I did it! You know the result: "he came back

seeing" (9:7, 11). Do we have the same faith, trust and submission? If so, you know what the result will be!



Pool of Siloam

Upcoming Events

TODAY— Monthly Youth Devo after evening services at the home of Ron and Mary Jo White. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

TODAY— Ladies Day Meeting at 4pm at the building.

Mon. Nov. 15—Teen Bible Basics @ 6:30pm

Thurs. Nov. 18-Teens Takeaway @ 6:30pm

For December:

Dec. 5— Monthly Potluck luncheon after morning worship.

Dec. 19—White Elephant gift exchange.

Dec. 31—New Year's Eve fellowship at the building @ 7pm

Area Events—Schertz Lectures Nov. 14-17. More details are on the hallway bulletin board.

Registration for the Southwest Youth retreat at Camp Henzel has begun.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Rita Rosenbrock, the Dorries' daughter, who had neck surgery last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Sandy Malone.

Food Helpers for the month of November - Team A. There is a list of teams on the bulletin board. If you would like to be added to the list, please see Lupe.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Service Roster

Week of November 14, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements.....Jesse Moser
Scripture Reading..... Leon Morales
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Moser

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ronnie Scherffius
Cup..... Ron White
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist.....Fred Scherffius
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford
Assist..... Will Burleson

Sunday Evening

Announcements.....Jesse Moser
Song Leader Ken Dorries

Opening PrayerJesse Moser
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido & Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song LeaderFred Scherffius
Devotional Ronnie Scherrfius

Other

Usher.....Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Ashley Barton Nov. 15
Darryl Lynch Nov. 16
Preston Lynch..... Nov. 17
Hazel Pawlik Nov. 18

Anniversaries

Herb & Valerie Ramsey Nov. 18

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

*“As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So
honor is not fitting for a fool.”
Proverbs 26:1*

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of November 7, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....61
A.M. Worship.....89
P.M. Worship.....48
Wednesday Bible Class.....43
Offering week of November 7, 2021.....\$ 3,545

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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