

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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If We Don't Say No To Ourselves, We Can't Say Yes To God

By: John Mitchell

When we say yes to God's plan of salvation for us, we have to say no to our old unsaved ways of life. I'll explain this by looking at God's plan of salvation.

#1 Hear the gospel. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) When we first hear the gospel, our faith grows and we start to trust God's ways for us. To be able to live a life of trusting God in faith, we have to stop living our life by trusting in the ways of the world. So, we have to say no to our old way of life before we can say yes to God's new way of life for us.

#2 Believe the gospel. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6) "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8) When we say yes to accepting and believing in the good news of the gospel, we are saying that we are personally confident that the Bible scriptures are the true inspired words of God. God's ways for us, and the world's ways for us are opposite of each other. They oppose each other. They both can't be true. We can't follow and obey God's will for us found in the scriptures, without first rejecting, and turning away from the ways of the world. When a person says they believe in the gospel, but they are not following and obeying the gospel, their actions show that they don't believe the gospel will do what it says it will do in their life. What a person is doing is what they believe. What they are not doing is what they don't believe.

#3 Repent of our sins. "I tell you, no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) To repent we are saying to God, "I have sinned in the past, and I'm sorry for having sinned. With Your help, Lord, I will be able to repent, by turning away from sinning, and seeking to live a life of not sinning. Saying yes to repenting, is saying no to sinning.

#4 Confess Christ before men. "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33) If we say yes to God, He will say yes to us. If we say no to God, He will say no to us. God has good plans for us, most importantly, salvation. Saying yes to the ways of the world, is saying no to God's good plans for us. God will respect our free will decision to not accept Him, or His good plans for us. God will never force us to follow and obey Him, against our free will.

#5 Be baptized. "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17) In baptism our old sinful man is buried in the waters of baptism. And our new creation man rises up out of the waters of baptism. To be able to say yes, to continue to live the life of the new creation man in Christ, we have to continually say no to that

old man of sin, from coming back into our life. And yes to God's ever present, love, guidance, and help through His scriptures.

#6 Live a faith filled life of obeying and serving God. "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." This same scripture is found in three different locations in the Bible. (Matthew 10:22, and 24:13) and (Mark 13:13) In many places in scripture, it is clear to us that just one time saying that you believe in God, isn't enough to be guaranteed a reservation in heaven. We have to daily, read and study the bible throughout all of the rest of our days on earth. We must LIVE IN BELIEF, and LIVE IN FAITH toward God, to be able to stay faithful to God all the rest of our lives. We must also, daily say no to anything or anyone who may be drawing us away from God. We have to have our mind set on God, and His will for us. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2) To say yes, I will live most of my life the way God wants me to, and yes, I will also live some of my life the way I want to, IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOD! What is acceptable to God is for us to put Him first in our life, because that is what is best for us. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear

the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase." (Proverbs 3:5-9) And the two Great Commandments; "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37,39) God wants us to be totally submitted to Him, and for Him to be the Lord of our life. "If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, HE IS A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS." (James 1:5-8) HOW COMMITTED ARE WE TO BEING SUBMITTED WHEN TEMPTATION COMES, SAY NO, I DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE, AND WALK AWAY. TO STAY RIGHT WITH GOD, WE HAVE TO KEEP SAYING NO TO WHAT IS NOT RIGHT WITH GOD! God is asking us to say no to the harmful things that Satan wants to curse us with, on the wide road to hell. God is asking us to say yes, to the good things that God wants to bless us with, on the narrow road up to heaven. God can't put in our hands the good He has for us, until we let go of the harmful things of the world.

I Wonder Why...

By: Selected

God gave us the interesting characteristic of "curiosity" when He created us. It causes us to question and inquire about the things around us. Curiosity makes us wonder and seek out knowledge. The power and consequence of being curious is credited for our advances in education, science, and technology. What drives the desire to explore, invent and discover? It is the sense given to us called "curiosity".

Curiosity makes us "think" and "wonder". What else could motivate us to seek God? As seekers of knowledge we wonder about the Creator and ponder the mysteries of life. The old adage, "Curiosity killed the cat" can be a warning of being too curious in matters that might be

dangerous, however the wise man of Proverbs wrote, "The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." (Proverbs 18:15) Christians are encouraged to "seek those things which are above where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God." (Eph. 3:1) Thus we are to use our curiosity to seek out our spiritual path in life.

True, there are those questions we may never be able to answer, "Why must good people suffer?" or "Why is my life so challenging?" But with the right prayerful attitude we can accept things for the way they are and let our curiosity move us to please our Heavenly Father.

Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Family and Friends Day. We will have a potluck luncheon after the morning service with a 1:00 pm afternoon service. Please bring a dish/ dessert to share.

Sun. May 14: Youth Devo after evening worship services. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sun. June 4: Potluck luncheon after morning service and we will be honoring our graduates Sabrina Gonzalez and Luis Carlos (LC) Islas.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Barbara Withers daughter, Amy, who was released from the hospital.

Jake Jacobs who came forward last week asking for prayers.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Service Roster

Week of May 7, 2023

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading.....Fred Scherffius
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering
Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Billy York
Offering.....Mike Atkinson
Assist.....Jack Jobes
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Kirk FitzSimmons/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song LeaderJack Jobes
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other
Prepare Communion for May.....Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays
Luke FitzSimmons.....May 10
Joe Luna.....May 10
Tre Cannady.....May 11

We rejoice that June Fielder was baptized last week. May her walk with Christ bear much fruit.

Evangelism Table

Another important item on our evangelism table is the congregation's contact card. On the front of the card is our Midtown graphic along with an invitation to attend Sunday morning worship at 10:00 A.M. Also on the front is our website address, physical address, and phone number. The card is purposefully made non-coated so that you can write your name, contact details, or a message on it. The card is ideal for sharing with someone after having a spiritual discussion with them, leaving on the table for your waitress, leaving on the coffee table at your doctor's office, etc. Please feel free to take as many as you need so that you always have them to share with others!

Food Helpers for the month of May - Team A.

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

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

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

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!
For Your wondrous works declare that Your
name is near.”
Psalm 75:1

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 April 30, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....74
A.M. Worship.....113
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Bible Class.....73

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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