

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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It's the Message, Never the Messenger

By: Dan Jenkins

Corinth was located in the midst of the Grecian world characterized by orators and philosophers. Rome had conquered the Grecian world, but its culture in some ways had not changed at all. This magnifies the importance of what Paul said in his first letter to this city. “I was determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (**1 Cor. 2:2**). The power of the gospel to change the world is not determined by the skill of the messenger but in the truth of the message.

Dio Chrysostom lived from A.D. 40 until A.D. 110 and was a Greek historian and writer of the Roman world. Eighty of his discourses have been found and in one of them he describes the orators of his day. “They croak like frogs in a marsh; they are the most wretched of men, because, though ignorant, they think themselves wise; they are like peacocks, showing off their reputation and the number of their pupils as peacocks do their tails.”

This was the world into which Paul came to establish the kingdom of God in Corinth. He first entered the synagogue and “persuaded both Jews and Greeks...and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ” (**Acts 18:4-5**). His description of his preaching gives such insight into the importance of the message over the importance of the messenger. “My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the

Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (**1 Cor. 2:4-5**). The results of this? “Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized” (**Acts 18:8**). His purpose was not to elevate any man above the cross, for no man had died for them nor had they been baptized in the name of any man (**1 Cor. 1:13**).

What happened when this humble apostle exalted Christ and Him crucified as he preached? While many of the Corinthians believed, most of them did not. How is it that some obeyed the gospel, but most did not? Look at how Paul described the Grecian world and its love for orators. “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (**1 Cor. 1:18**). “Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified” (**1 Cor. 1:22-23**).

Should the message be changed to convert more? Hear the words of Paul, “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise...not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise” (**1 Cor. 1:26-27**). The death of Jesus is foolishness to most, but to us it is the power of God. God help us to simply preach Christ and His message—not ours!

Why I Enjoy Teaching One-on-One Bible Studies (Part 2 of 2)

By: Selected

In the last article, we considered how enjoyable one-on-one Bible studies with non-Christians can be and should be for us as children of God. We saw how much we can and should rely on the Bible, for it is the same book in every study, it never changes, it is always right, and it has all of the answers. Here are a few more reasons to consider in why we should have excitement in teaching Bible studies.

I always learn something myself. The Bible is a “living” book (Heb. 4:12), and there is always something for someone to learn, even those who have read it and studied it for years. Sometimes there are connections seen between verses that had not been noticed before. The old saying, “The teacher always learns the most,” is especially true when it comes to the Bible.

It keeps me sharp. “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Prov. 27:17). What if your friend is the Bible, which is itself a “sword” (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12)? Teaching it sharpens my knowledge and sharpens my ability to teach it again.

It is fun to watch it work. It is “the gospel” (not me) that is “the power of God to salvation” (Rom. 1:16). There are few things more exciting than to see “the sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17), “the light of the gospel” (2 Cor. 4:4) and “the word of truth” (Jas. 1:18) at work. When the plain truth of God’s Word connects with an open heart, who is ready to receive “the word with all readiness” (Acts 17:11), it is fun to watch outward expressions display the inward applications being made. When studying about the authority of God’s Word, the unique nature of the Lord’s church and the Divine plan of salvation, it starts to click and a person starts to respond favorably, because it is “welcomed...as it is in truth, the

word of God” (1 Thess. 2:13).

I am reminded of God’s promises. God promises wisdom to those who ask (Jas. 1:5). God promises strength to those who need it (Isa. 41:10). The Lord promises to be with me, when I am teaching His Word (Matt. 28:20; cf. Josh. 1:5-9). I am not on my own. In these studies, I am standing on the promises of God.

I do not take personal offense. Sometimes a person may decide, like Felix in Acts 24:25, to wait for “a convenient time” to obey. Sometimes a person may outright reject what is being taught, but in all of this I am reminded that Jesus said, “He who rejects you rejects me” (Luke 10:16; cf. John 12:48). Jesus is there to protect me. It’s not about me, but about Him.

There are few things (if any) that I enjoy more than studying one-on-one with a non-Christian! How about you?



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 2: Monthly Potluck luncheon with a 12:45pm service. Please bring a dish/ dessert to share.

Sunday, March 9: Monthly youth devo at the McCoy home. Girls bring desserts, boys bring drinks.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Allen Clifton who is still recovering from his biopsy.

Rick Bass who is still having tests done to get a correct diagnosis.

Draven Garcia who will be having knee surgery in March.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of February 23, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ken Dorries
Song LeaderJack Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Dan Fielder
Offering..... Billy York
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer.....Caleb Lehtinen
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Bryce Dolan/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song Leader Richard Hill
Devotional Kevin Sheeran

Other

Prepare CommunionFerman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Simon Cammock.....Feb. 24
Dorothy Williams.....Feb. 27
Angela Sneeringer—Gonzales.....Feb. 27

Please get with Kelly Cannady if you would like a picture for the pictorial wall directory.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections 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
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for My strength is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my
infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest up-
on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV

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 February 16, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....70
A.M. Worship.....96
P.M. Worship.....70
Wednesday Worship.....55

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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