

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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The Church Is a BIG Deal to Christ!

By: David Sproule

“Well, that’s a typical preacher thing to say, isn’t it? Of course, a preacher is going to say that the church is a BIG deal to Christ! That’s what he’s supposed to say!” I guess someone could respond that way, but let’s approach this strictly from the viewpoint of the Bible. Let’s not give attention to what any ordinary man has said on this subject. What do we need to know about the church from Jesus’ viewpoint?

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as it was His eternal plan! The Bible tells us that “before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4), God planned for Christ to come and redeem mankind (1 Pet. 1:18-20), and His church was “the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:9-11). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as it was the subject of His preaching from beginning to end! From the start of His ministry until the moment of His ascension into heaven, Jesus preached about His church (Matt. 4:17; 16:18-19). He taught multiple parables about it (Matt. 13) and gave instructions on how to enter (John 3:3-5) and how to live in it (Matt. 18:4; 20:20-28). During the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension, He was “speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as He paid the highest price imaginable to purchase it! The church was not an afterthought for Christ and the payment for it

was not a surprise. The shedding of “the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:19) was in the eternal plan of God, by which He “purchased” the church (Acts 20:28). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as He devoted half of the New Testament to give instructions to His church! The purpose statement of First Timothy could really summarize the purpose of the books of Acts through Revelation: “that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church” (1 Tim. 3:15). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as He puts His saved safely inside of it! The church is the saved (Eph. 5:23), and the saved are the church (Acts 2:47). Jesus gave Himself to save the lost (Tit. 2:14), and when the lost are saved, He transfers them into “the kingdom” (Col. 1:13). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

The church is a BIG deal to Christ, as He is going to return one day to take only His church home to heaven! When “the end” comes, He is going to deliver “the kingdom to God the Father” (1 Cor. 15:24). Now, that’s a BIG deal!

Question: Is the church a BIG deal to you?

A Problem for Those Who Teach His 1,000 Year Reign

By: Selected

We continue this week looking at a problem the scribes and teachers of the Old Testament possibly could have had if they made a deep study of the Scriptures. They obviously knew the Messiah was to come and hundreds of prophecies could have lead them to discover so much about Him.

There were those prophecies where one word used to describe Jesus was that He was to be a branch. Isaiah had said, "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (**Isa. 11:1**). This verse followed by those exalting the coming of the Spirit on that Branch and so many aspects of His righteousness. This section concludes by referencing Jesse again and prophecies that the Gentiles would seek the root springing out of Jesse (v. 11). The Hebrew word for branch evidently is tied to the name of the city of Nazareth where Jesus was born and why He was called a Nazarene.

For a while there was no problem for the scribes seeing the passage from Isaiah describing the Messiah. But three hundred years later, Zechariah added the Branch would be both priest and a king. The problem was that in Judaism priests came only from Levi and kings came only from Judah. How was it possible that one individual could ever be members of two different tribes? The answer is easy for us to see because there was another Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah would come and be like another totally different source of priests. David said, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" (**Psa. 110:4**).

However, in so much of modern Christendom, there is a belief that when Jesus returns He will come to Jerusalem and rule the earth. He will

build a new temple, the Ark of the Covenant will be placed in it, and there will be a return to that Old Testament system with its priesthood. What is wrong with this Idea?

The Bible clearly says, "If He were on earth, He would not be a priest" (**Heb. 8:4**). Why is it that there is no way Jesus could be a priest on the earth? "For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood" (**Heb. 7:14**). Those who teach the reign of Jesus on earth for a thousand years cannot solve this problem. Jesus is indeed a priest, a high priest, but He is a priest in heaven. He now reigns in heaven as King of kings and is a priest of another kind, one after the order of Melchizedek!

In God's plan the Branch can be both a king and a priest on the throne at the same time. The doctrine of the thousand-year reign with a return to the temple cannot be true. The Bible shows the way He can be a priest and a king!



Upcoming Events

Sun. April 6: Monthly potluck luncheon.

Sat. April 26: Men’s breakfast at 7am and Congregational work day open to all to follow at 9am. Please see Doug Jobs if you have any questions.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass who had a spinal tap recently.

Draven Garcia who had knee surgery and is recovering at home.

Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil’s great niece, Milani Barron, who is having seizures.

Jerri Rosales whose spots on her lungs have reduced by 50%. She will have another test and if all goes well, will be on the kidney transplant list.

Allen Clifton who will be undergoing radiation treatment.

Helen Cannady who is dealing with thigh pain.

Members

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

Service Roster

Week of March 30, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson

Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries

Cup..... Doug Jobs

Offering..... Barry Lehtinen

Assist..... Mike Atkinson

Assist..... Lupe Escojido

Assist..... Bryant Siegel

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Caleb Lehtinen

Closing Prayer..... Bryant Siegel

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Ken Dorries/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for March..... Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Blake Jacobs..... Mar.31

Jeff Cannady..... Apr. 3

Tom Cullen has expressed his desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. His contact information is on the table in the foyer for your pocket directory. Don’t forget to pick one up!

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

You shall love the Lord your God with all your
heart, with all your soul, and with all your
strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5 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 March 23, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....60
A.M. Worship.....86
P.M. Worship.....55
Wednesday Worship.....53

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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