

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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All Mankind Must Change

By: Dan Jenkins

His name was George. He had been dishonorably discharged from the Marines. His addiction to alcohol and sinful living would have caused many to dismiss him as a hopeless case. Then he met Brenda and through her he met Jesus. His life was changed eternally by Christ. They devoted their lives working with those in the local jails and hundreds were changed, not by them, but by the Jesus they met through them. On a recent Answering Macedonia Calls trip, I met a Christian whose life was transformed by the teaching of George, who is now dead, but who, before his death, taught this man by preaching and serving also as an elder.

Then there is Ronnie. He lived in Palm Beach County and was a hard worker. He was seen by the world as successful until drugs came into his life. When the deputy came to arrest him, he took the deputy's gun and demanded more drugs be brought to him. Needless to say he was incarcerated in prison. Then he met Frank and through him met Jesus. After his release, he came to Palm Beach Lakes and the first time he ever partook of the Lord's Supper was here. He later married Jeanie, a member of this congregation, and they have spent the last twenty years conducting an outstanding program in Alabama with facilities for about twenty addicts spending up to two years there in the recovery program.

This article is not about George and Brenda. It is not about Ronnie and Jeanie. It is about the

transforming power of the gospel of Jesus. It could have begun by saying, "His name was Saul and he was seen by many as one having a great future. That future was totally changed, and he no longer was killing Christians after literally meeting Jesus. He became a Christian through Ananias." This article is not about Ananias, it is about the transformation Christ can bring in a person's life.

This article is about you! It is about those we know to whom that same Jesus said, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (**Rom. 12:2**). Addicts like George and Ronnie needed transformation, but so does a devotedly religious Saul, who we know better as Paul. Wherever we are and how others see us, we must meet Jesus and let Him eternally change us!

It is a renewal that comes, as the Scripture says, by a renewal of our minds. We must quit letting the world set our values, letting human wisdom and feelings decide the course of our lives. We are what we think (**Prov. 23:7**), and when we meet Jesus, we change the way we think. We never stop being transformed. "Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (**2 Cor. 4:16**). This article is about me. It is about you. It is about personally changing every day, transforming ourselves into His image.

Give Me the Bible, Not “Sola Scriptura” (Part 6 of 6)

By: Selected

Let’s see if we can summarize these matters. The term “sola scriptura” is not found in the Bible, as it is a Latin phrase created by some men to describe a belief system and to distance themselves from another belief system that was created by a different group of men. As a manmade expression, its meaning can vary from person to person. Even if such a belief system “sounds good” or “seems to align with what the Bible teaches,” why not just go to the Bible and let the Bible teach what the Bible teaches?

First, the Bible teaches that ALL Scripture in the Old Testament and New Testament is inspired of God. Second, the Bible teaches that the 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament are ALL-sufficient for man today. Third, the Bible teaches that the truth of God’s Word has been once for ALL delivered. Fourth, the Bible teaches that the Bible is ALL-authoritative in our lives. Finally, the Bible teaches that the Bible is PERFECT and demands (and deserves) ALL respect and obedience.

When Jesus came to this earth, the Catholic church did not exist (and would not for hundreds of years). When Jesus came to this earth, the protestant movement and “sola scriptura” did not exist (and would not for over one thousand years). When Jesus came to this earth, He set the standard for us in “handling aright the word of truth” by not holding to any manmade doctrines or traditions. Listen to Jesus: “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I

speak” (**John 12:49-50**).

If Jesus Himself would not speak on His authority apart from what the Father commanded, who are we to do any different? If Jesus Himself would only speak what the Father said, who are we to do any different? His Word is perfect, complete, sufficient, final, enduring, authoritative and our only means to eternal life (**John 6:68**). I don’t need to know Catholic dogmas or protestant terminology. I only need to concern myself with, “What does the Bible say?” Let’s just go back to the Bible. Let’s speak where the Bible speaks. Let’s call Bible things by Bible names, do Bible things in Bible ways, and believe, teach and practice only those things that are in accordance with God’s full revelation in the Bible.

Heaven is too important! Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (**Matt. 7:21**). Let’s go to the Bible, teach only the Bible, do His will as revealed in the Bible, and help others to do the same.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 1: At our monthly potluck we will be honoring our two high school graduates: Corrine Flonnory and Katie Fricks. There will be a cake and basket for cards. Please bring a covered dish.

Wed. June 4: Summer Series begins. Adults will be in the main auditorium for “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Maren Fielder who broke her arm recently.

Jerri Rosales will be put at the top of the kidney transplant list as soon as insurance is approved which should take a week or two. Jerri has finally got her clearance after testing for almost a year and a half. Please continue to pray that everything goes well for her.

Allen Clifton who has been undergoing radiation treatment 5 days a week.

Brenda Voyt, friend of Rick Bass, who passed away.

Members

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

Service Roster

Week of May 18, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Steve Randle
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... James Cammock

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song LeaderJack Jobs
DevotionalJames Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion..... Ferman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Summer Siegel.....May 21
Doug Jobs.....May 23

Anniversaries

Cody & Katy McCoyMay 19

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

Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to
my neck.
Psalm 69:1

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 May 11, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....110
P.M. Worship.....55
Wednesday Worship.....57

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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