

See What Happens When the Bible Is Read

By: Dan Jenkins

The return from Babylonian captivity is truly one of the least known parts of the history of Israel but marks one of the most remarkable periods in the lives of God's chosen people. When Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, left the city of Jerusalem, he left nothing but ruins behind. The walls were gone and no longer was there a temple, a priesthood, an altar, an ark of the covenant, two tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments inscribed on them—there was no city—it all lay in ruins. It was destined to stay this way for seventy years, for God had promised a return of a righteous remnant to restore the great city.

The return was not immediately completed nor was Jerusalem rebuilt quickly. When the seventy years of captivity ended, Zerubbabel brought the largest number of Jews with him back to the city. The population of Jerusalem during the celebration of its feast days before the captivity had to be hundreds of thousands. The number who returned with Zerubbabel was 42,360 (**Ezra 2:64**). They did not immediately rebuild the city but they first built the temple. True worship was not restored until Ezra and those who came with him brought that about. Nehemiah came later and the city was still devastated, and he brought about the rebuilding of the walls so the city could be safely repopulated. God had promised and it had happened!

With the temple, the priesthood and the walls completed, all the Jews—all the men, women and

children who were old enough to understand— assembled in an open square. Ezra stood on a large podium and brought the copy of the law of God with him. The Bible described it this way: “So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading” (**Neh. 8:8**). He began at daylight and finished reading the Word of God at noon.

The results were amazing. “All the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law” (**Neh. 8:9**). They listened to the reading of the Word of God for the next seven days and there was a great revival (**Neh. 8:18**). When they found they had not been worshiping God in the right way in keeping one of the feast days, they immediately did what they had learned from simply reading the Bible. They did it the right way. “For since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness” (**Neh. 8:17**).

This is precisely what respecting the Bible brings about. Read the book. Make it simple enough so even children can understand it. Let the listeners' hearts be humbled and determined to do His will and change their lives to do it God's way. What would happen if America had this kind of heart!?

But Did You Worship?

By: Selected

Sometimes we may equate “being in an auditorium” with worshiping. Sometimes we may associate “gathering with other people on Sunday” as worship. But, when we are (1) in an auditorium (2) with other Christians on Sunday, do we actually worship? That is a critical question to answer.

We have a God-given responsibility to “worship” God (**John 4:23-24**), to “praise” God (**Heb. 13:15**), to “glorify” God (**Rev. 15:4**), to “Give to the Lord the glory due His name” (**1 Chron. 16:28-29**). This requires desire, thought, effort, determination, activity, etc. There is nothing “passive” about worshiping God. I am not to be an observer or spectator. From beginning to end, my heart and body must be engaged.

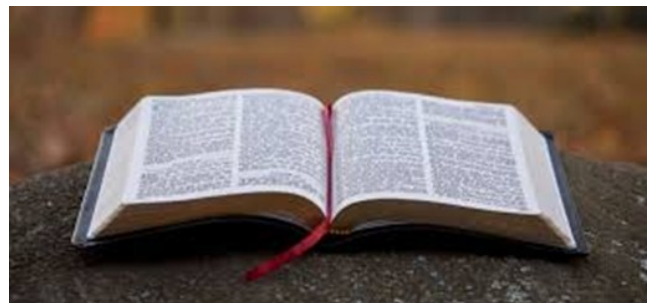
However, we sometimes place the emphasis in the wrong place. It is not that some things are not essential to worship, and it is not that some things could cause heartfelt worship to be made unacceptable to God, but we must not lose sight of the real purpose and focus of our worship. Give this some thought.

You may go to worship on Sunday (not Saturday), as Scripture teaches (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2**), but did you worship? You may partake of the Lord’s Supper every single first day of the week, as Scripture teaches (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 16:1-2**), but did you worship? You may sing with the congregation without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments, as Scripture teaches (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15**), but did you worship? You may ensure that you are in a place where males lead the worship assembly, as Scripture teaches (**1 Tim. 2:8-14; 1 Cor. 11:3; 14:34-35**), but did you worship?

You may arrive on time and stay for the entire service, but did you worship? You may give a large amount of money, but did you worship? You may stay awake through the whole sermon, but did you worship? You may sing out, follow along with the prayer and say “Amen,” and take of the bread and juice, but did you worship?

It may look, on the outside, like you did everything right and that you were worshiping God, but only you and the Lord know your heart to know if you truly did worship Him. Jesus spoke of those who misplaced the real focus of worship and said, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me” (**Matt. 15:8**). In the next verse, Jesus said that such worship (which is not, by definition, actually worship) is “in vain” (15:9).

Our Lord is “worthy to be praised” (**Psa. 18:3**) and to “receive glory and honor” (**Rev. 4:11**). When we gather with other Christians on Sunday, let’s make sure we worship Him.



Upcoming Events

Youth Devo for tonight has been cancelled for this month.

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

Sat. Sept. 27: Save the date for a Men’s Lunch here at the building. More details to come.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Benny Horton’s sister in law Wanda Moreno who had a stroke and had surgery in Houston.

Parker DeDear who was in the hospital.

Five year old Robert Kerbow of Uvalde who is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Nathan Montavo, a co-worker of Eddie Serenil, who was sprayed with acid.

Amy Sylva’s dad, Ruben. His health is declining.

Members

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

EVANGELISM TRAINING

Sundays at 4 PM at the church building throughout August*

August 3 – Pew Greeter Training *(12:15 PM)

August 10 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 1

August 17 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 2

August 24 – Compassion Card Follow-up Training

August 31 – Mentoring New Converts Training



Service Roster

Week of August 10, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Luke FitzSimmons
Song Leader..... Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Doug Jobes

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Benny Horton
Cup..... Mike Atkinson
Offering..... Jake Jacobs
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Jack Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Bryce Dolan/
Benny Horton

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Mark FitzSimmons
Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional..... Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for Aug..... Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Will Burleson..... Aug. 11
Scarlet Atkinson..... Aug. 14
Lupe Escojido, Sr..... Aug. 14

Anniversaries

Mike & Julia Atkinson..... Aug. 14
Barry & Krista Lehtinen..... Aug. 14

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 let us not grow weary while doing good, for
in due season we shall reap if we do not lose
heart.
Galatians 6:9

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 August 3, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....71
A.M. Worship.....107
P.M. Worship.....64
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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