

## Unrighteous “Righteousness”

By: Dan Jenkins

There are words we use which in a sense describe the title of these thoughts. They are simple words we all understand, and the feeling we have as we use them often describes individuals who have deceived us and sometimes hurt us in the past. No one has any joy dealing with one who is phony, one who is a fake, one who is a fraud, one who scams.

The Greeks had a word to describe this kind of individual, and it was the word “hypocrite.” It was used to describe actors on a stage who in a performance played several characters. He wore many masks to become the multiple personalities he became in his performance. None of the masks portrayed what he really was like. He simply changes masks depending on circumstances.

Jesus often used strong language to describe the Jewish leaders. He said, “Woe to you scribes and Pharisees...” (Matt. 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29). His attitude to those who use religion or religious ideas to further themselves shows the disdain He has for such. It is a sobering thought to think of what will happen in the final judgment when their masks are removed! As we live on the stages of our lives, there should never be places for masks in our dealing with others. It was through Paul’s writings that God said, “Let love be without hypocrisy” (Rom. 12:9). And He said through the writings of Peter, “Lay aside all hypocrisy” (1 Pet. 2:1).

We should not just think of “evil” individuals

who wear masks to deceive and fraud helpless people like widows and other innocent people. Jesus uses this word nearly twenty times and warns us to beware of those who wear the mask. “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1). The mask worn by these evil men only made them appear to be “good” men. Jesus described these men in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6). They wore the masks when they stood on the street corners and prayed long prayers. They wore these masks when they marked their faces so others could see that they were fasting. They wore these masks when giving and “sounded trumpets” so everyone could see how much they gave.

Make the application of this to how we live. There is no place in hiding our true feelings when speaking—we must let our “Yes” mean “Yes” and our “No” mean “No” (Matt. 5:37). We must never let how we behave at church be different from how we act outside of worship. There is the “righteousness of faith” (a phrase used repeatedly in the Bible) and the “righteousness” of self-righteousness. Lay the masks aside—be real, be genuine, be honest, be on the outside what you are on the inside. It will make an eternal difference!

## The Truth About Jesus (Part 4 of 7): The Great Exaltation

By: Selected

The transforming truth of Jesus Christ is certain, supreme, clear and relevant to our lives (1 Tim. 3:16a). In this verse, the Holy Spirit emphasizes six pivotal elements of this truth to help us appreciate the magnitude of Jesus Christ and His plan for us, including the great incarnation and the great vindication.

**Third, Paul emphasizes the great Exaltation: “He was seen by angels.”**

What does that mean? The word “angels” comes from the Greek word *angelos*—you can see the English word “angel” in the Greek word. The word means both “angel” (i.e., a transcendent power sent to carry out various tasks for God) and “messenger” (i.e., a human messenger serving as an envoy). While some have been inclined to understand the word in this verse as human messengers, it seems better contextually to take it just as the translations have it—angels sent forth by God. When one reads the life of Christ, there are many occasions when angels are present. They are not merely there to observe, but they are captivated by and closely involved in the life and work of Jesus, having been sent forth to minister to and on behalf of the Son of God. Consider these occasions when angels of heaven served our Savior.

Angels foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would bring forth the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38), and then an angel told Joseph that the baby was of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18-25).

Angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds who were in the fields (Luke 2:8-15).

Angels ministered to Jesus after He triumphed over the temptations of the devil (Matt. 4:11).

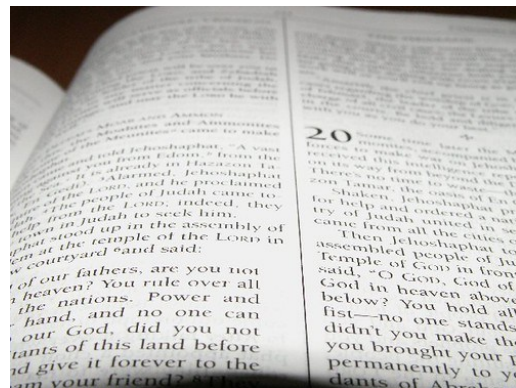
Angels strengthened Jesus while He was agonizing in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).

Angels announced the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (Matt. 28:1-7; Luke 24:4-7).

Angels promised that Jesus would come again, as He was ascending (Acts 1:9-11).

Even now and in the future, angels serve in various capacities to fulfill the will of God. While He is on the throne, angels “are subject to” Jesus (1 Pet. 3:22). “Many angels” are “around the throne” worshipping Jesus right now (Rev. 5:11-14). When Jesus comes again, “all the holy angels” will come with Him (Matt. 25:31).

This indisputable truth ought to transform our lives toward godliness! As the Lord's church, we are "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). We must know it! We must teach it! We must defend it!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Ladies Bible Class will begin. All ladies are encouraged to join us in the fellowship hall Tuesdays at 10 am.

Sat. Sept. 27 at 11am: Men’s Lunch here at the building. Please see Doug Jobses for more details.

Saturday, October 4: Monthly youth devo at the Jobses home at 6pm. Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

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 will be having a doctor’s appointment on the 25th.

James Hicks who responded to the invitation last week.

Members

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

Service Roster

Week of September 21, 2025

Sunday Morning  
Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen  
Song Leader .....Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Dan Fielder  
Closing Prayer.....Jake Jacobs

Lord’s Supper & Offering  
Bread..... Doug Jobses  
Cup.....James Cammock  
Offering..... Ron White  
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford  
Assist..... Ferman Rosales  
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening  
Song Leader .....Luke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido  
Closing Prayer.....Caleb Lehtinen

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Steve Randle/  
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening  
Adult Class .....Cody McCoy  
Song Leader .....Richard Hill  
Devotional .....James Cammock

Other  
Prepare Communion.....Kaspar & Mericle

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays  
Callie Terry.....Sept. 22  
Joy Terry.....Sept. 23  
Jack Jobses .....Sept. 25  
Jerri Rosales.....Sept. 25  
Tam Archer.....Sept. 27

Anniversaries  
Ferman & Jerri Rosales.....Sept. 25

Please pick up an address label for the Jobses family. Doug has updated his cell number.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for the remaining months of 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 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

## 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 September 14, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....69  
A.M. Worship.....97  
P.M. Worship.....57  
Wednesday Worship.....70

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

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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**midtown**  
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