



Thank you to the young adults for hosting the teen devotional - We appreciate you!

Sunday, November 1

Mark your calendar for MidTown's Trunk or Treat following evening service. The children will eat pizza and have a devotional while the adults prepare their vehicles. Following the devotional, the children may wear costumes and visit the decorated cars to collect small toys or candy. Hot-dogs will be served.



EDUCATION

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, November 1 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "What Are You Becoming?" What will your life be like in ten years? What will your character reveal about you? We are all in a state of becoming something. Are you growing closer to the Lord or are you moving away from Him?

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Mondays

Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 PM
Tuesdays (September through May)
Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Clay Bond

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL" by Kevin Rhodes

Nowhere will you find in the Bible that following Christ is going to be easy. In fact, the apostle Paul told Timothy, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). Yet people seem to make that assumption on their own—and to their own detriment. They see all the blessings Jesus brings but have trouble accepting the responsibilities. The disciples following Jesus after He fed them did not come to Jesus expecting to take on responsibility or expecting to have to change. They came expecting easy street.

Instead they heard a message about true discipleship, but to this they did not react well. "Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can understand it?'" (Jn. 6:60). The word translated "understand" in the New King James Version should have been left as the original King James translated it: "who

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"

2 Tim. 2:3

can hear it?" The saying was not hard because they could not understand it; they considered it hard because they did not want to do it. Just look at the whole of the conversation. These disciples understood very well what Jesus was saying, that He required

complete acceptance of Him as the Son of God and complete allegiance to Him in all that He taught. This they would not accept. It was too hard. In reality, Jesus was asking no more of them than of anyone else. But for them it was hard—not because they could not have done it, but because their attitude kept them from accepting it.

My friends, we can make discipleship much harder than it really is when our attitude is not what it ought to be. We approach the Lord with preconceived ideas of what He wants based upon what we ourselves want. This ought not to be so! In the end, like these disciples, we will think the message of discipleship strange and burdensome and try to strike a bargain with God, as if He should lower His expectations to meet ours! Friends, discipleship will always be hard if we try to negotiate the depth of our obedience, the underlying message of the question this

group of disciples asked (Jn. 6:60). Jesus did not approach His life in such a way. Rather, “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:8-9).

Discipleship can be difficult when we want wiggle room for our opinions and lifestyle when Jesus offers none. John records, “When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’” (Jn. 6:61). These wavering disciples wanted some other way, some easier way. Perhaps they wanted a way where they could put the demands of discipleship to a popular vote. Perhaps they longed for a formalistic style of commitment. But Jesus offered neither. In this, as in all else, He never wavered. Even on the night of His betrayal He told the apostles, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn. 14:6).

This offers no wiggle room for the broad-minded who would compromise the essence of salvation. This offers no leeway even for those who would attempt to reinvent the gospel according to their own dictates. Discipleship does not come with a variety of options; it offers only one. Therefore, we must accept Jesus as He is and the gospel as it stands or we can receive none of the blessings God offers.

DEVELOPING A CHRIST-CENTERED CULTURE



You are invited to attend a series of gospel sermons.

October 25-28

Guest Speaker Kevin Rhodes

Sunday, October 25 at 9 a.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Friendships”*

Sunday, October 25 at 10 a.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Congregation”*

Sunday, October 25 at 1 p.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Leadership”*

Monday, October 26 at 7 p.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Marriage”*

Tuesday, October 27 at 7 p.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Children”*

Wednesday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

◆ *“Developing a Christ-Centered Culture in Your Life”*

News & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, October 28 Children will first meet in the auditorium before being excused to go to their regular bible classes due to the gospel meeting.

Saturday, October 31 There will be wreath workshop at 9:30 a.m. here at the building. See the flyer in the hallway for details and a list of materials.

Sunday, November 1 Remember to set your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

Sunday, November 1 There will be a Trunk or Treat following evening service. See the back of the bulletin for more.

Sunday, November 1 Plan to attend the monthly Men’s Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

November 7-8 Dave Rogers will be with us for a men’s breakfast and study on Saturday, November 7th and will teach and preach on the qualifications of elders on Sunday, November 8th. Time will be allotted for questions and answers both Saturday and Sunday.

- Brookdale (formerly Homewood) Team #4 will meet today.
- A reminder that you can download or listen to lessons from the gospel meeting by visiting our website.

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Terry Jamison** in prayer as well as **Archana Verma** who responded on Sunday.

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Sandy Malone

Bob Neel
Barbara Nuckels
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Inez Schafer
Rex Sims
Etta Williams

& Friends Family:

Cynthia Barrett,
daughter of Dee Gilpatrick
Sandra Barton,
sister-in-law of Karon
Darlene Dolan,
mother of Bryce Dolan
Joyce Eggemeyer,
mother of Barbie Dolan
Josephine Escojido,
mother of Lupe Escojido
Dee Ann Endsley,
niece of Jerri Jeffres
Pam Hawkins,
daughter-in-law of June
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Perliene Johnson,
mother-in-law of Steve Randle
Dorothy Koenig,
mother of Mickey DeDear

Jami Liner,
wife of SWSBS student
Carol McFarlin,
sister-in-law of Sandra Mericle
Edna Randall,
aunt of Randy Tipton
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
David Smith,
brother of Bob Smith
Ray Shannon,
son of Donna
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Becca Wiese,
friend of Virginia Escojido
Ray Williams,
son of Etta
Martha Young,
friend of Elana Carroll

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of

OCTOBER 18, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....122

Sunday Morning Assembly.....144

Sunday Evening Assembly.....98

Offering: \$4,130