

**Today!**

There will be a devotional for girls (under 18 yrs.) and their moms in the small auditorium at 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 24**

The Young Adults will host a devotional for the teen group (6th grade through high school) at 6 p.m. here at the building. Boys please bring drinks and girls bring desserts. Also, please bring \$2 for pizza.

**Sunday, November 1**

Mark your calendar for MidTown's Trunk or Treat following evening service.



**EDUCATION**

**In Search of the Lord's Way**

The lesson for Sunday, October 11 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Believing in Christ." Faith in Jesus Christ distinguishes the people who belong to God from those who belong to the world. In this lesson we're going to explore what it means to believe, truly believe, in Jesus Christ. Do you believe?

**SUNDAYS**

- Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**
- Morning Worship .....10:00 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](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

OCTOBER 4, 2015

"THE CORRUPTION OF WORSHIP" by Kevin Rhodes

Worship lies at the heart of any religion. It displays the fundamental principles of doctrine, the significance of adherence to a particular authority (or not), the relationship expected between participants, and the foundational morality expected of all. When people often overlook many of the distinguishing features of a given religious group, they fail to appreciate its essence. As a result, many people lump various believers into generic categories so they can dismiss them casually as a group rather than investigating them on the basis of their independent practices. However, by far the best way to evaluate such matters of faith depends upon seeing both the loftiness of the faith in its origin compared to the amount of corruption people have allowed over time.

The LORD regularly applied this approach to His people as they tumbled from the grandeur of Sinai's declaration to the despair of Babylon's occupation. Along the way, the LORD measured the faith of their leaders by the heart of David, and so it was with Ahaz who "did not do what was

**"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"**

John 4:24

right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done" (2 Chr. 28:1). The report of Ahaz's corruption included his lack of reverence and complete disregard for spirituality, but from the outset, he provided the clearest evidence of the deterioration of his faith by how utterly and completely he corrupted worship in Judah: "For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had

cast out before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree” (2 Chr 28:2-4).

In relatively little time, Ahaz managed to corrupt his worship in almost every way imaginable.

1. He used the wrong model—the kings of Israel.
2. He worshiped with the wrong character, seeking carnal images of Baal rather than the invisible image of God.
3. He employed the wrong method, burning incense for himself.
4. He offered the wrong sacrifice, burning his children in the fire.
5. He followed the wrong standard, conforming to the worship of the world around him. And he relied on the wrong atmosphere, the physical beauty of creation rather than coming before the spiritual beauty of the Creator.

In these things, Ahaz shares much in common with many religious groups of today, including those espousing some allegiance to Christ. They want to be considered as belonging to the LORD, but their worship betrays their true alliance. If you want to worship the God of heaven, you cannot offer Him anything you please. To the contrary, you should offer Him only that which He Himself has declared as pleasing. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

**DEVELOPING A CHRIST-CENTERED CULTURE**



*You are invited to attend a series of gospel sermons.*

October 25-28

Guest Speaker Kevin Rhodes

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

**Attendance**

Sunday Bible Class.....116  
Sunday Morning Assembly.....159  
Sunday Evening Assembly.....103

**Offering: \$5,184.43**



Today, the Men's Meeting will be held at **3:30 p.m.** The minutes of the monthly men's business meeting along with the financial report are posted on the hallway.

**News & ACTIVITIES**

**Thursday, October 8**

The Young Ladies' Potluck Luncheon will meet at Noon, here at the building.

**Friday, October 9**

Everyone is invited to an evening of fellowship and fun beginning at 6:30 p.m. here at the building. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your favorite games.

- Brookdale (formerly Homewood) Team #1 will meet today.
- Michelle Christi of the Parkway church of Christ in Corpus Christi is in need of a place to stay 2-3 days per week. She is a nurse at DeTar hospital working nights. If you would like more information, please see Clay.

**WELCOME:**

**Sandra Mericle** has asked to be identified with the MidTown congregation. Please be sure to welcome her.

**Keep in PRAYER**



**MidTown Members:**

Jeff Cannady  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Betty Key

Sandy Malone  
Bob Neel  
Ann Pantel  
Glen Pitts  
Rex Sims  
Inez Shafer  
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*

Dorothy McCarn  
*aunt of Pam Clifton*  
Carol McFarlin  
*sister-in-law of Sandra Mericle*  
Edna Randall,  
*aunt of Randy Tipton*  
Sarah Randle,  
*mother of Steve*  
Ernest Rundzieher,  
*brother of Jackie Rutherford*  
David Smith,  
*brother of Bob Smith*  
Ray Shannon,  
*son of Donna*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Becca Wiese,  
*friend of Virginia Escojido*  
Mark Withers,  
*nephew of Clark*  
Ray Williams,  
*son of Etta*