

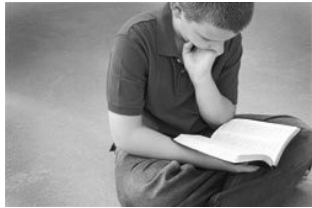
## Youth NEWS

Thank you to the  
Hutt and Harris  
Families for host-



ing the Egg Hunt yesterday.  
We appreciate you!

Mark your calendar for a youth rally  
hosted by MidTown May 5-6 with Joe  
Wells. More details to come!



Today is the  
April Jr./Sr.  
High Devotional  
hosted by Steve  
Randle follow-  
ing evening ser-  
vices here at the building. Boys, please  
bring drinks and girls please bring desserts.

## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, April 16 at 7:30  
a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Problems in  
Worship" God and men may view wor-  
ship differently. Some things we do in our  
worship of God may not please Him at all.  
Interestingly, God does not accept all that  
people call worship. He asks that we  
honor Him by how we worship.

### SUNDAYS

Bible Classes .....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship .....10:00 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 5:00 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

Ronnie Scherffius

### SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

John Moore  
*Bible Land Passages*

Cecil Shaw  
*Ocho Rios, Jamaica*

Student Support  
*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN  
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www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR MID-  
TOWN  
MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS

# The MidTown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

APRIL 9, 2017

"THE THIEF ON THE CROSS" by Ronnie Scherffius

A favorite "watering hole" of Protestants seeking support for their doctrine of salvation by faith only is the thief on the cross. The general premise is that since the thief on the cross was not baptized then baptism is not required of man today. Teaching that remission of sins comes through faith without baptism is little more than theft of the truth from innocent minds! By perverting the account of the thief on the cross, the false teacher himself becomes a thief and dishonors the beautiful work God has committed to man—preaching the gospel of peace!

Consider the following as examples of how the account of the thief on the cross is used to deny the necessity of baptism and teach the error of salvation by faith only. From the website [thetruthaboutdeath.com](http://thetruthaboutdeath.com), Adventist Doug Batchelor teaches:

The repentance of the thief on the cross is a powerful story indeed. It shows us that conversions can happen at the end of one's life; that even the vilest criminals will be accepted by God if they come to Him; **that no more than a request for salvation made in faith is required by God.**

Note the following quotations from a sermon delivered by Dwight L. Moody, the well

known nineteenth century preacher connected with the Holiness Movement and founder of the Moody Church:

**You see, in the conversion of this thief, that salvation is distinct and separate from works.**

Now some people tell us we have to work to be saved. What has the man who believes that to say about the salvation of this thief? How is he going to work, when he has nails through both hands and through both feet.

He took the Lord at his word, and believed. It is with the heart men believe, not with their hands or feet. **All that is necessary for a man to be saved is, to believe with his heart.**

Some people say you cannot be saved if you are not baptized. Many people think it is impossible for any one to get into the kingdom of God if he is not baptized into it. I don't want you to think I am talking against ordinances. Baptism is right in its place; but when you put it in the place of salvation, you put a snare in the way. **You cannot baptize men into the kingdom of God.** The last conversion before Christ perished on the cross ought to forever settle that question. **If you tell me a man cannot get into Paradise without being baptized, I answer, This thief was not baptized.**

Was the thief which hung on the cross next to our Lord saved? The answer to this question must be a resounding **Yes!** How do we know this? Because Jesus told the thief, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). This statement settles forever the question regarding the eternal fate of the thief! Jesus said that he would be in paradise and to paradise he went. Yet, if this be the case, then are not the denominations right?! Does the thief's salvation prove that one may obtain remission of sins today without baptism?

**The Thief On The Cross—Not An Example Of Christian Conversion**

The thief on the cross was not a Christian convert! How could he have been? He was never baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. Some might object and argue, "He might have been a disciple of John and therefore baptized with John's baptism." So what if he was! (and why should we spend time arguing what might have been?) The simple fact is that repentance and remission of sins in the name of Christ was not preached until some weeks later in the city of Jerusalem. The thief was born and died under the old law and was not amenable to the command to be

baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

It is true that the thief on the cross was saved apart from baptism into Christ, but that fact does not in any way authorize one to preach today that the thief's salvation is exemplary of ours. This man will not be judged according to the law of Christ for he lived and died under another law. We see Moses and Elijah speaking to Christ on the mount of transfiguration (Mat. 17) and do not doubt the salvation of their souls and yet who would argue that since neither of these great men of the Old Testament were baptized for the remission of sins, we can be saved by faith only? And yet, the thief lived and died under the same law of God as them.

Opening to the book of Hebrews we find faithful Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Sara all "who died in faith" (Heb. 11:13), and yet what preacher would suggest that since these died in faith "apart from baptism" we are saved likewise? The Hebrews writer further illuminates that great Old Testament men and women such as Rahab, Gideon, Samson, David, Samuel, and the prophets had received such a report of faith that "the world was not worthy" of their presence (Heb. 11:38). Yet, never do we hear the Protestant preacher suggest that since these celebrated ancients were saved without baptism we also are saved by faith only. The truth is that these were saved by an obedient working faith, the same type of faith by which we are saved today—a faith made perfect by our obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ! Thus, faithful James would write of Abraham, "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, **and by works was faith made perfect**" (Jam. 2:22).

**News**  
& ACTIVITIES

**Today!**

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. here at the building.

**Thursday, April 13 & 27**

The Leadership Development Class will be held at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, April 16**

There will be a Teacher's Meeting following evening services for all ladies' interested in teaching.

**Sunday, April 23**

You are encouraged to submit bible questions in a "mail box" in the foyer to be answered during a monthly Q&A session. Ronnie will answer the bible questions each fourth Sunday during the evening service.

- Brookdale Team #2 will meet today.
- Check out MidTown's updated website at [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org) to listen to sermons including the recent gospel meeting lessons.

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
APRIL 2, 2017

**Attendance**

Sunday Bible Class.....	118
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	152
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	104
Wednesday Attendance.....	129

**Offering: \$4,560.53**

**Keep in  
PRAYER**



**RESPONSE:**

Please keep **Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez** in prayer who responded Sunday.

**MidTown Members:**

- Buster Bailey
- Jeff Cannady
- Les Daltry
- Jan Farris
- Dee Gilpatrick

- Betty Key
- Kathy Laws
- Betty Mabe
- Sandy Malone
- Ann Pantel
- Glen Pitts
- Angela Sneeringer
- Clark Withers

**& Friends Family:**

- Victor Benitez, brother of Virginia Escojido
- Bert Haynes, father of Pam Stryker
- Kim Neel-Farthing, daughter of Joyce
- June Green, mother of Janice FitzSimmons
- Amy Jamison, daughter of Terry
- Keith Lempa, son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
- Barbara Lopez, mother of Rosalba Barton
- Liz Lopez, friend of Nina Siegel
- Janell Marshall, mother of Karon Barton's sister-in-law

- Amanda Mueller, sister of Amy Harris
- Fred Porter, brother-in-law of Della Rampley
- Madeline Posey, family of Julie Posey
- Sarah Randle, mother of Steve
- Polly Ray, aunt of Connie Cleveland
- Scott Reeves, son of Sam and Leta
- brother of Sherry Lynch
- Gary Rush, friend of the Arnos
- Sammy Snead, brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
- Agnes Sergel, grandmother of Athena Scherffius
- Prem Verma, father-in-law of Archana
- Kennedy Young, Sr., uncle of Naomi Flonnory