

## Youth NEWS



Today!  
The next Junior  
High/High

School devotional will be hosted by the Hutt Family following evening service. Boys please bring desserts, girls bring drinks.



The March Family/  
Youth Devotional  
will be hosted by the Pitchford  
Family on Saturday, March 25.  
More details to come.

## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, March 19 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Obeying God." While many emphasize feelings and attitudes, the Scriptures are clear that God expects more. God expects those who love Him to hear His word and to obey. Obedience distinguishes the true disciple from the one who claims to follow the Lord.

### 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](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR MID-  
TOWN  
MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

MARCH 12, 2017

"THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND" by Ronnie Scherffius

The courage of the apostle Paul to proclaim the gospel of Christ, even in the face of persecution, is undeniable. After his conversion he proclaimed the gospel of Christ in Damascus though his life was endangered (Acts 9:22-24); having travelled to Jerusalem and joining himself to the apostles, "he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him" (Acts 9:29); after being stoned and left for dead outside the city of Lystra, Paul returned to that city to strengthen the souls of the disciples, "exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

Perhaps his own words to the elders of the Ephesian church best describes this great quality of the apostle to the Gentiles, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24) Because Paul had been "crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20) he was able to live for Christ with great boldness.

Yet, Paul's courage in the face certain death was even more incredible. Consider these words from the closing chapter of Paul's final letter to Timothy: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Hence-

forth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim 4:6-8). From a Roman prison Paul's courage and faith in Christ was not shaken. In fact, he had just earlier encouraged Timothy saying, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12). What emboldened Paul's faith in the face of death? Ironically, it was the boldness of his faith in life! Note Paul's words to Timothy that demonstrate this fact.

First, Paul *fought a good fight*. The picture Paul paints is not that of a fist fight but rather a, struggling with dangers and difficulties

that are opposed to and even antagonistic toward the faith of Christ. The word *fought* is translated from a Greek term that literally means to “contend in a struggle with adversaries” and is the word from which our English word agonize originates. Paul often found himself in agonizing struggles with the adversary of man and with those who opposed themselves to the gospel of Christ. (Acts 14:1-6, 19; 16:16-24; 17:5, 13-14; 19:23-20:1; 21:27-32; et al) To the Corinthians Paul wrote that he had been “in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft” (2 Cor. 11:23). The catalogue of his struggles (2 Cor. 11:24-28) seems overwhelming but this good fight in life would ultimately help Paul to be courageous as he faced the end of his days on this earth.

Second, Paul *finished the course*. Like his Savior before him (John 4:34; 17:4; 19:30), Paul fulfilled completely the work that God had given him to do: “I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; <sup>17</sup>Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, <sup>18</sup>To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:16-18). To the elders of the church at Ephesus Paul could say, “I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you...I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:20, 27). Standing before King Agrippa, Paul stated his zeal in fulfilling his holy charge, “I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.” (Acts 26:19-20). Paul not only pressed “toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14), he

## SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AND SALVATION



APRIL 2 - 5

Presented by  
Ronnie Scherffius

- Sunday, April 2 at 9 a.m.**  
♦ “What Does The Old Testament Say About Christ?”
- Sunday, April 2 at 10 a.m.**  
♦ “What Is The Nature of Christ: Is He God Or Man?”
- Sunday, April 2 at 1 p.m.**  
♦ “What Will You Do with Jesus Which Is Called Christ?”
- Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m.**  
♦ “Why Will Some Be Lost?”
- Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m.**  
♦ “How Can I Know What Is Right?”
- Wednesday, April 5 at 7 p.m.**  
♦ “How Can I Remain Faithful?”

finished the course and obtained that glorious victory!

Finally, Paul *kept the faith*. In the face of severe persecution and certain death Paul remained faithful to Christ. Unlike Demas, he had not forsaken the cause (2 Tim. 4:10). Unlike Hymenaeus and Alexander he had not put away the faith making shipwreck the faith of others (1 Tim. 1:18-20). He neither followed afar off as Peter (Luke 22:54) nor betrayed Christ as Judas (Matt. 26:14-16), but rather kept the faith according to the wisdom of Solomon: “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23). Paul was the preeminent example of the good ground, for with “an honest and good heart, having heard the word,” he kept the faith and brought “forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15).

None of us know the time of our departure. Whether it is near or distant future, we can face it with boldness and courage if we, like Paul, will fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith.

## News & ACTIVITIES

### Thursday, March 16

The next Leadership Development Class will be held at 7 p.m. here at the building.

### Sunday, March 26

- The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal will follow evening services.
- There is a “mail box” in the foyer for your bible questions to be answered each fourth Sunday during evening services.

### Wednesday, March 29

There will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing this month.

- Brookdale Team #2 will meet today.
- Michelle Parker married Kirk Fauver on Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m. at MidTown. Any cards of well wishes please send to Michelle’s address in Cuero.

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
MARCH 5, 2017

**Attendance**  
 Sunday Bible Class.....118  
 Sunday Morning Assembly.....152  
 Sunday Evening Assembly.....106  
 Wednesday Attendance.....104

**Offering: \$4,525**

## Keep in PRAYER



### MidTown Members:

Paul Atkinson  
Buster Bailey  
Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Jan Farris

Dee Gilpatrick  
Betty Key  
Kathy Laws  
Sandy Malone  
Ann Pantel  
Glen Pitts  
Angela Sneeringer  
Mickey Tisue  
Clark Withers

### & Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,  
*brother of Virginia Escojido*  
Bert Haynes,  
*father of Pam Stryker*  
Glena Coon,  
Bo Dykes and Doris  
*family of Peggy Matlock*  
Kim Neel-Farthing,  
*daughter of Joyce*  
June Green,  
*mother of Janice FitzSimmons*  
Amy Jamison,  
*daughter of Terry*  
Barbara Lopez,  
*mother of Rosalba Barton*  
Liz Lopez,  
*friend of Nina Siegel*

Janell Marshall  
*mother of Karon Barton's*  
*sister-in-law*  
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 Arnots*  
Sammy Snead,  
*brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Kennedy Young, Sr.,  
*uncle of Naomi Flonnory*