

Are You Concerned About the Future?

By: Dan Jenkins

It was Jesus who described the final judgment and discussed the right hand and left hand of the Judge of all mankind. It is truly the most sobering thought that you and I will be there and hear the judgment given as to where we shall be forever and ever.

Every person who has ever lived will be there, for the graves will have been opened. The Judge said, “The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth” ([John 5:28-29](#)). Paul described it, “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body” ([2 Cor. 5:10](#)).

The universe, the heavens and the earth will have ceased. Their time of existence will terminate on that day of judgment ([2 Pet. 3:7](#)). This is the day “...in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” ([2 Pet. 3:10](#)).

The judgment will take place, and like a shepherd in ancient days separated the sheep from the goats in his flock, so the Shepherd will separate the righteous from the ungodly. You and I will be placed with the righteous “sheep” on His right hand or the unrighteous “goats” on His left hand. The final judgment will happen in this way.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the

foundation of the world” ([Matt. 25:34](#)). His final message to those on His left hand will be, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” ([Matt. 25:41](#)). You and I will hear one or the other of two sentences—“Come, you blessed of My Father,” or “Depart from Me, you cursed.”

The reality of this time should impact every decision we make and the basis on which we make them. Nothing in this material world will matter, for none of it will exist when time ends. Most people you know think about their future, and they only focus on and value these temporal things. Many have elevated their judgment about how to live each day, but the only truth about the future is the truth from God.

You and I have a view of the future, but we must realize the truth about the future is found in the God of truth. One truth cannot be changed. You and I will without any doubt experience it. “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal” ([Matt. 25:46](#)). Think soberly about the closing words of Peter’s second epistle, “Since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?” ([3:12](#)).

Think soberly about these words!

Single Parents in God's Family

By: Selected

The toughest job in the world today is being a faithful Christian parent! While it can be difficult for a faithful dad and faithful mom to raise faithful kids together, the task is exponentially tough for a single parent doing it alone, or the Christian parent with an unbelieving spouse. If this is you, may I offer you some encouragement? Let's focus for a moment on what you do have instead of on what you don't have.

Remember that you are not alone in this! Know without any doubt that God sees you, hears you and is walking with you every day. Read about how He cared for Hagar (Gen. 16:1-13; 21:15-21), the widow of Zarephath (1 Kgs. 17:8-24) and Eunice (Acts 16:1-3; 2 Tim. 1:5). Your God is actively present in your home with you (Heb. 13:5-6). Count on it!

Remember the Bible example of one faithful parent who raised a strong, faithful child. Timothy's dad was an unbeliever (Acts 16:3), but his mother raised a powerful servant of God. How did she do it? First, Scripture lived in their home from Timothy's infancy (2 Tim. 3:14-15), and faith was lived out in front of him (2 Tim. 1:5). Second, we see that she leaned on a godly grandparent (2 Tim. 1:5). You can do this!

Remember that God will fill in the gaps where you feel that you struggle. He said that He will give you wisdom when you ask (Jas. 1:5). He said that He will give you strength, even in the midst of your weakest moments (2 Cor. 12:9-10; Eph. 6:10). He said that He will provide your needs (Matt. 6:25-34). Trust Him! There is no single Christian parent who He has ever left alone! Let Him be the Father in your home!

Remember to fill your home with

Scripture and prayer. Regular Bible study time and even Scriptures posted around the house (Deut. 6:4-9) remind your child of God's love and wisdom. Opening your heart to God in prayer and teaching your child to do the same (Phil. 4:6-7) will help them to put their trust in Him and lean on Him. If your child sees this in you, there is nothing more valuable that you could give them. Little moments can have big impacts!

Finally, remember that your church family surrounds you and your children. God designed the church to bear burdens together, encourage one another and help your family flourish in Christ (Gal. 6:2, 10; Eph. 4:16; 6:1-4). You are NOT alone! You are surrounded by Christians who can be spiritual grandpas, grandmas, uncles and aunts. You are loved! And you may not realize it, but your steadfastness is an encouragement to the rest of us!

You are not forgotten by God (Heb. 6:10)! Do not grow weary (Gal. 6:9) or think you are alone (Matt. 28:20)! God will do great things for you and with you! You've got this!



Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: White Elephant fellowship after evening worship here at the building. Please bring a wrapped gift and finger foods.

Wed. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Fellowship here at the building. Please bring games and finger foods.

Sat. Jan. 17, 2026: Midtown will host Ladies Day with speaker Erin Tanner. Registration begins at 8:30am.

February 20-22, 2026: Midtown's Youth Winter Retreat. More details to come.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Mary Vega from Gonzales church of Christ who has serious health issues.

Members

Jeff Cannady and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen

Lord's Supper & Offering
Bread..... Benny Horton
Cup..... Clifton Rutherford
Offering..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Steve Randle
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Benny Horton/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Cody McCoy

Other
Prepare Communion for Dec.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays
Kasi Jobes.....Dec. 21
Caleb Lehtinen.....Dec. 21
Rieke Bass.....Dec. 22

Volunteers Needed

The Sign up sheets for ways to serve for 2026 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.
Please sign up.

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

With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.
Ephesians 4:2

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 December 14, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....63
A.M. Worship.....95
P.M. Worship.....53
Wednesday Worship.....49

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.