

midtown M E S S E N G E R

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Use Your Reasoning Skills to Reason

By: David Sproule

At the beginning of His message to Judah through the prophet Isaiah, God called, as it were, His people to the courtroom. They had wronged the God of heaven, and now there was an eternity-sized case against them. God calls them to examine the evidence, to investigate the charges against them, to accept the Lord's righteous judgments and to properly respond to Him. He does this in Isaiah 1:18 by saying, "Come now, and let us reason together."

There are many things that can be understood and implied from those words. But consider just one of those thoughts—human beings, created in the image of God, have the God-given ability to reason. By definition, they have the ability "to think coherently, logically and systematically, and then to draw inferences or conclusions from facts and make sound judgments." Let's put this to the test in our courtroom.

Exhibit #1: The universe exists with all of its exquisite details. The human body exists with all of its minute details. God tells us to "reason." What is the only reasoned conclusion to draw from the evidence? If a "house is built by someone," then a universe and a human body must be "built by someone." That's evident! To argue against that is to dismiss all reason. Truly, "He who built all things is God" (Heb. 3:4).

Exhibit #2: Jesus requires one to "be baptized" to be "saved" (Mark 16:16). The

Bible commands to "be baptized" to obtain "remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). God tells us to "reason." What is the only reasoned conclusion to draw from the evidence? If "salvation" is "in Christ" (2 Tim. 2:10) and one must be "baptized" to get "into Christ" (Gal. 3:27), then baptism is essential to be "in Christ" and to be "saved." That's evident! To argue against that is to dismiss all reason.

Exhibit #3: A child of God can "wander from the truth" and become a "sinner" whose "soul" needs to be "saved from death" (Jas. 5:19-20). The Bible says that a Christian can (and did) "become estranged from Christ" and "have fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). God tells us to "reason." What is the only reasoned conclusion to draw from the evidence? A child of God can become "again entangled" and "overcome" by "the pollutions of the world" (2 Pet. 2:20-22) and be "lost" (Luke 15:1-32). That's evident! To argue against that is to dismiss all reason.

The exhibits could continue to be lined up for logical, coherent, systematic consideration. With each one, God demands that we open Scripture (Acts 17:11), gather all the relevant evidence (Psa. 119:160), and draw only such conclusions as are demanded by the evidence (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17). Even today, God is calling, "Come now, and let us reason together."

The “Secret Ingredient” Missing from Our Lives

By: Selected

Over the years, I have been part of conversations where people talked about just how good their mother/grandmother cooked a particular part of a meal. Or it may have been a friend who gave them a recipe of her specialty, but part of the conversation said something like, “I have tried and tried to prepare it like she did, but there must be some ‘secret ingredient’ she used and just don’t know what it might be.”

There is a parallel to this in the lives of far too many of us as we try to follow the Bible. We look at other Christians and wish that we could be what they are and wonder what “special ingredient” they have that we may have overlooked. If you have ever felt this way, keep reading the rest of this article to learn more about this secret.

Obviously, as we try to duplicate in our lives what we see in theirs, we need to understand these ingredients of maturing as a Christian. Some are so obvious—reading the Bible, studying the Bible, attending worship regularly, trying to share what we know with those around us. Yet, sometimes we wonder if there is a “secret ingredient” we have missed.

The Jewish leaders in Jesus’ day certainly understood much of what God had said for them to do. They made lists of the commandments and spent time discussing which of the 613 commands they had listed in the Bible was the most important. They were so devoted to “following the recipe” that they made sure they kept the Sabbath in not traveling more than a sabbath’s day journey. They washed their hands before eating, thinking this was part of what God wanted them to do. They literally strained the water they drank to get rid of any insect

that might have fallen into that water. God gave them food laws and just maybe that insect might be one they should not eat. Read Jesus’ words to them as He talked about how they knew the law, but there was some part of it they had overlooked. Keep reading if you want to learn this “secret ingredient.”

They saw His miracles, and they understood these miracles were real. They ate loaves and fish that He miraculously gave to them. They knew His sinless life. Yet, they killed Him because they left something out of the recipe He tried to give them.

Is it possible we are making the same mistake? What was missing? The Bible clearly defines it in the book of Hebrews.

Meditate on this Divine truth. “The word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those that heard it” (Heb. 4:2). It’s not enough to read, to study, to worship, to try to teach others. Make sure you mix faith with knowledge. Heaven’s ingredient we overlook is personal faith!



Upcoming Events

Sun. Feb 1: Monthly Potluck after morning services. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share. There will also be a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow.

Sun. Feb. 8: Monthly youth devo after evening worship at the McCoys. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sun. Feb. 15: Annual Chili Cook-off after evening service.

February 20-22, 2026: Midtown's Youth Winter Retreat at Peach Valley AIM Camp for 6th –12th grade. Flyers and schedule are in the foyer in the hallway. It is also available on our website under Files.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Gina Gawlik who is on hospice care. She is Veronica Serenil's daughter's mother- in- law.

Members

Jeff Cannady and Veronica Serenil.

Volunteers Needed

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

Please sign up.

Service Roster

Week of January 25, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading Ferman Rosales
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread Jake Jacobs
Cup Barry Lehtinen
Offering Ron White
Assist Blake Jacobs
Assist Luke FitzSimmons
Assist Jack Jobes

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer Ron White
Closing Prayer James Cammock

Lord's Supper & Offering Clifton Rutherford/
Bryce Dolan

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons
Devotional Kevin Sheeran

Other

Prepare Communion for Jan Ferman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Nancy Fortenberry Jan. 25
Amy Sylva Jan. 26

Anniversaries

Richard & Marva Hill Jan. 25
Lupe & Virginia Escojido Jan. 31

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 Escoido—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

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone,
but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
1 Thessalonians 5:15

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 January 18, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....	80
A.M. Worship.....	103
P.M. Worship.....	55
Wednesday Worship.....	60

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

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies



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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.