

midtown M E S S E N G E R

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February 1, 2026

Every Secret Thing Matters

By: Dan Jenkins

The closing words of the book of Ecclesiastes should be remembered by every person on this earth. The wisest man of the Old Testament, Solomon, said, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (12:14). That phrase, “every secret thing,” when fully understood, will change your life.

It will help those who are all alone and feel like that person who sent invitations to come to his “pity party” and no one came. David said, “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me; refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul” (Psa. 142:4).

The circumstances which trigger this despair may vary from person to person and from one situation to another. It might have happened at work or within the family or in another of life’s situations. We were trying to do what Jesus said, and it seemed nothing good came out of it. When others spoke harshly and judgmental of us, we kept on speaking good to them. We wanted to do what Jesus told us to do, “Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). It did not seem to help; in fact, it got worse. We sit and wonder just how anyone could be so wicked.

This is when we need to remember what Solomon said about every secret thing. They did not win! The final chapter has not been written for that event, perhaps known by so few. It all changes when we remember that

God will bring every secret thing that is said or done into the judgment.

It may be that we are discouraged because others do not appreciate what we are doing in helping others, especially our brothers and sisters. At such a time, we need to listen to Solomon’s words about secret things. Jesus saw the widow’s two mites. He sees even a cup of cold water we give to others. Secret things. However, not one single word or one single deed will be overlooked by Jesus. He remembers every good thing and every one of them will be brought into judgment.

So how should we react to events like those just described? Paul said, “Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Gal. 6:9). How others respond does not matter. Whether we are appreciated or not does not matter. God sees us. He sees those who wrong us. He sees every event in our lives that surrounds us. Every secret thing is remembered!

Do not ever forget this: “It is always right to do right, and it is always wrong to do wrong. It is never right to do wrong and never wrong to do right. This is right because of the Bible.” Secret things matter to Him!

A Verse Too Often Overlooked

By: Selected

I remember a young lady once hearing a lesson on First Thessalonians 5:22 and coming out and saying, “I had no idea that verse was in the Bible.” Like many, she had danced around various worldly behaviors, trying to justify certain ones with statements like, “Well, the Bible doesn’t really address that specifically.” This verse hit her hard. While it’s a short verse, it certainly packs a punch.

God warns His people throughout Scripture about “evil” and the present and eternal dangers associated with it. He tells us to “Abhor what is evil” (Rom. 12:9) and to “not be overcome by evil” (Rom. 12:21), for “the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Pet. 3:12). First Thessalonians 5:22 goes a little deeper than these passages.

The word “abstain” is a strong term. It is an imperative, denoting a direct command from God. It is in the middle voice in Greek, which emphasizes the direct involvement of the subject in action for which he has a vested stake. The present tense stresses the ongoing, continuous nature of this command. The Greek word for “abstain” means “to avoid contact with, keep away, refrain from, hold oneself from.” There is no middle ground with this term—it involves absolute avoidance, being distant from something.

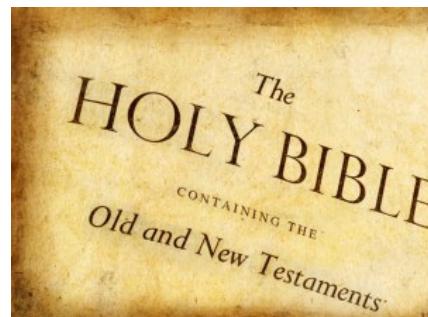
The word “every” is an all-inclusive term. The same Greek word is used in Second Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” No Scripture is left out of that. The same word is in Hebrews 3:4, “Every house is built by

someone.” There are no exceptions to that. When God commands to abstain, avoid, keep away from “EVERY” of any thing, there are no exceptions or anything left out.

The word for “form” means any “variety or kind.” The KJV translation of “appearance” is also good, as the Greek word can mean “outward appearance,” as in “the appearance” of Jesus’ face in Luke 9:29. Even more specific than abhorring, in general, what is evil (Rom. 12:9), this text underscores that every kind or appearance of evil must be avoided.

In a similar way, Galatians 5:19-21 spreads God’s disapproval over any form of sin by listing a variety of sinful vices and then adding, “and the like,” to cover anything else “like” these that may not be specifically mentioned. Anything that is “like” evil is “evil”!

As I seek to walk faithfully with the Lord, I must not quibble about whether a particular practice is specifically mentioned in the Bible or not. Every single kind of evil, without any exception, is condemned by God in Scripture and must be kept away from continually by God’s children, if we are to “be holy in all [our] conduct” (1 Pet. 1:15-16).



Upcoming Events

Today!: 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:

Eddie Serenil who was in the hospital last week. Doctors will be deciding if he will need his heart catheter redone.

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

Members

Jeff Cannady and Veronica Serenil.

Randy and Mandie D'Herde have expressed their desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. Their contact information is on the table in the foyer for your pocket directory and is also available on Lightpost.

Service Roster

Week of February 1, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading Dan Fielder
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer Jake Jacobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread Bryant Siegel
Cup Lupe Escojido
Offering Benny Horton
Assist Caleb Lehtinen
Assist Kanin Jacobs
Assist Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer Willie Fossati

Lord's Supper & Offering Billy York/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons
Devotional Kirk FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for Feb.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Letty Randle Feb. 7

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

Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God;
Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of
uprightness.
Psalm 143:10

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 25, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....	na
A.M. Worship.....	61
P.M. Worship.....	na
Wednesday Worship.....	64

*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.