midtown MESSENGER

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Blind Leaders Leading Blind Men

By: Dan Jenkins

James highlighted the importance of the way teachers portray the truths of God. He said, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment" (Jas. 3:1). We share in the eternal destiny of those whom we teach. We bring them closer to heaven or hell in every word we speak. Jesus said, "If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (Matt. 15:14).

In a sense, the religious leaders of the first century knew about God and what He had said, yet their pride and preconceived ideas made it so difficult for many to find Him as "...the way, the truth and the life." They sent officers to arrest Jesus, but they did not seize Him. Their reason was that when they heard Him, they returned empty-handed because they said they had never heard anyone speak like Him.

The response to the words of the officers gives great insight into why many failed to find the truth. "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed in Him?" (John 7:47-48). In their minds, truth was to be determined by what the religious leaders taught. They wanted the Jewish nation to follow what the rulers believed, taught and practiced. Isn't this same problem part of what is found in the lives of so many today?

How did Jesus respond to this concept? "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in" (Matt. 23:13). Jesus was the Way, He was the Truth, but the Pharisees did all they could to block the door of entrance into His kingdom.

To see the application of these truths, think about how so many in our day blindly follow what is taught by pastors and televangelists. To see this, look at how Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper to mankind. Those early Christians knew that it was the central feature of their weekly assembly. When Paul was in Troas preaching in that city, they did not primarily come together to hear Him speak, but their focus of worship was the breaking of bread (Acts 20:7). Religious leaders have minimized the importance of communion, blocking the doors of worship to their followers.

The door of truth about baptism is also blocked by religious leaders who blindly minimize what the Bible teaches about baptism and salvation. It was never designed as a public demonstration of one's faith, but blind leaders continue to teach this. It was not a ceremony, but a time when sinners called on the Lord to save them (Acts 22:16). Let me encourage every reader of these words to find truth in all matters, by honestly following the One who is the way for all men.

Can You Give Me Some Easy Verses?

By: Selected

A sister in Christ sent me a message: "Can you send me a couple easy-to-understand verses about why we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday? And some easy verses to understand about instrumental music. I'm having a discussion with someone and need to give just basic things."

This is a great question. And a common question. Both of those are important subjects, with much that could be said about each one. But, here is what I sent back to this sister. Maybe it will help you.

First, before getting into specific subjects, you need to lay the foundation of the authority of Scriptures, otherwise it will not matter what you say. Christ has all authority, not us (Matt. 28:18). His Word is going to be the final judge, not ours (John 12:48). We must do all by the authority of Christ—we must have authority from His all-authoritative Word for all that we teach and practice, including in worship (Col. 3:17). We have no right to add to, take away from or modify His Word in any way (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9). Once you lay down those foundational principles, here is what the Bible teaches.

What do we know from the New Testament about the Lord's Supper? As soon as the church was established, they "continued steadfastly…in the breaking of bread" (Acts 2:42). There was regularity to it. Scripture then tells us that the church was coming "together" on "the first day of the week" for the purpose "to break bread" (Acts 20:7). The church in Corinth was rebuked because their purpose when they came together as a church was "not to eat the Lord's Supper" (1 Cor. 11:20). So, the church was partaking and was supposed to be partaking when they assembled on the first day of the week. And since they assembled "every first day of the week" (1 Cor. 16:1-2, NASB), they were to partake every Sunday.

What do we know from the New Testament about the music in the worship of the church? Every verse in the New Testament regarding music in worship, without one exception, specifies singing. The church was commanded to engage in "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19; see also Col. 3:16). There is no Biblical authority to add an instrument to the singing anymore than there is authority to add peanut butter and jelly to the bread in the Lord's Supper. We live under the New Testament and must have New Testament authority for what we teach and practice.

All of our worship must be done "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Worshiping "in truth" is done according to God's "Word" (John 17:17). If I change God's authorized worship, then it becomes my worship and not God's worship.



Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: Monthly youth devotional after evening services hosted by the Sheeran family. Girls bring desserts, boys bring drinks.

Learn new songs on Sundays from 4pm-4:35pm in the fellowship hall with Randy D'Herde.

Oct. 15: Young adults Bible Study at 6pm. More details will be sent out via the Group Me App.

Oct. 27: Evening Ladies Bible Study at 7pm at the home of Mandi D'Herde.

Nov. 8- This will be the Sunday for our monthly potluck luncheon for November. 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:

Veronica Serenil who is awaiting test results on biopsies done last week. Also, she will be undergoing some nuclear testing later this month.

Cassandra Turner's mom, Jan passed away. Cassandra is a friend of Summer Siegel.

Juanita Smith, friend of Bryce and Barbie Dolan and member of the church, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatment for her cancer.

Sandra Horton is having a procedure Oct. 12th. She has a blockage in her leg.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class meets at 10am here in the fellowship hall. They are studying "Women of the Bible."

Service Roster

Week of October 11, 2026

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader .....Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering
Bread..... Benny Horton
Cup.....Jake Jacobs
Offering.....Barry Lehtinen
Assist.....Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist.....Caleb Lehtinen

Sunday Evening
Song Leader .....Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer.....Bryant Siegel

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Benny Horton/
Jake Jacobs

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class .....Cody McCoy
Song Leader ..... Randy D'Herde
Devotional.....Barry Lehtinen

Other
Prepare Communion for Oct.....Bass

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays
Scout Terry.....Oct. 12
Karter Terry.....Oct. 12
Pam Clifton.....Oct. 15

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
Cast your burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
Psalm 55:22 NKJV

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

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 October 4, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....49
A.M. Worship.....92
P.M. Worship.....46
Wednesday Worship.....66

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

Supported Works
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Trey Jenkins & Daniel Owens, Joshua Holloway
Home of Recovery and Restoration
India Mission Works
The Manna Project https://mannafarm.org/

midtowncoc.org

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