

The Good, the Bad, the Ugly in the Church—Then What?

By: Dan Jenkins

The expression “The good, the bad, the ugly” is widely used in our culture. It originated from a movie by this title released in 1966. There were three characters starring in it with each having one of the distinct personality traits found in the title. Over the next few weeks, we will use this approach to look at churches in the first century.

The church at Ephesus: the good. It was established by Paul on his third missionary journey and became the center of the evangelizing of the Roman province of Asia.

Paul preached in this city longer than in any other place he lived and during that time all of Asia heard the gospel (Acts 19:10). Later Timothy came to the city to continue the work as it grew. In the book of Acts, we read Paul’s conversation with the elders of this great church. There is so much good in those early years of this congregation.

In the book of Revelation, more good can be found, when John writes to them from the island of Patmos. Paul had told those elders that after he left false teachers, some from within the congregation and others from without, would enter the church to destroy it. When John writes to them, it was obvious how seriously that eldership had taken Paul’s words. There were some who were claiming they were apostles, and the elders and the church realized this and did not allow these false teachers to harm the church. John said that their labors to stand for the truth in this

way continued and they had not become weary in doing this (Rev. 2:3). Then there were other false teachers who brought in the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and both the church and the Lord hated this doctrine (2:6).

Ephesus: the bad. Things were not all good in this church because a serious problem had developed. It is a problem that often develops in both preachers and churches. Their focus had been so centered on dealing with error that the love they once had for the Lord was not what it once was. John said they had left their first love, but this does not mean they had turned against Jesus who they loved. Leaving your first love simply means that they had forgotten how much they loved Jesus at first. That had greatly diminished.

Ephesus: the ugly. How serious is that when it happens to a church? The answer to this is the “ugly” of this church. Tongues minus love, prophecies minus love and knowledge minus love are often just noise like a clanging cymbal (1 Cor. 13). So is standing for the truth minus taking seriously what Jesus said lay in this church’s future: “I will come and remove your candlestick” (3:5). Keeping this love will lead to eating from the tree of life. Another church next week.

“Has God Indeed Said?”

By: Selected

The Bible begins with God speaking and with God speaking in very clear terms. The first chapter of the Bible presents God speaking eleven times. “God said...God said...God said...God said...God said...God blessed them, saying...God said...God said...God said to them...God said”(Gen.1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29). Of the 31 verses in that first chapter, God speaks in 13 of them.

In chapter two, we read “God said” in verse 18, and even greater still, verses 16-17 read, “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

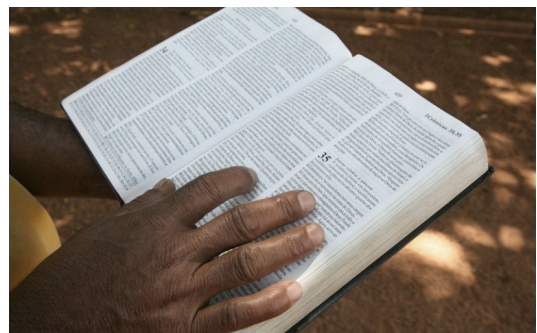
Did the woman know about what “God said”? Most certainly. The woman said, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **God has said**, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die’” (Gen. 3:2-3). Did you notice what the woman said? She knew exactly what “God said.”

That makes the devil’s efforts even more audacious on this occasion! The first chapters are filled with “God said” and the woman knew clearly what “God said,” yet the devil still cunningly queried, “Has God indeed said?” (3:1). The devil knows the answer to that question! And the devil is not worried whether you know the answer to that question! All he wants to do is to plant a little seed of doubt or a little seed of displeasure at what God has said! And once “the devil” has “put it into [your] heart” (John 13:2), he’s got you where he wants you. And he uses that same tactic

today.

Perhaps the devil has caused you to question or doubt or find displeasure in certain things that “God has said.” It’s as if the devil is putting into your heart the same kind of question that he used on Eve: “Has God indeed said...do not forsake the assembling of the saints?” “Has God indeed said...do not lie to another?” “Has God indeed said...do not look upon a woman to lust after her?” “Has God indeed said...give as you have been prospered?” “Has God indeed said...abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul?” “Has God indeed said...obey the elders who rule over you and be submissive to them?” “Has God indeed said...do good unto all men?” “Has God indeed said...be patient with all?” “Has God indeed said...esteem others better than myself?” “Has God indeed said...teach others the gospel?” “Has God indeed said...seek first the Lord’s church and His righteousness?”

The devil still works the same way he did in the beginning. He runs at you right in the face of what “God said” and tries to get you to ignore it. Don’t let him win!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a potluck dish/dessert to share with visitors.

Friday, July 10: Baby shower for Naomi Walkine at the FitzSimmon’s home at 6pm.

Sunday, July 12th: Monthly youth devo after evening services.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Virginia Escojido’s brother, Paul Valdez, who had a heart attack last Sunday.

Steve Randle had knee surgery last week and is recovering.

Patty Smith, Rieke Bass’ sister, had a mild stroke. She is in Denver, CO and will have more testing done.

Robert Ontiveros, a co-worker of Veronica Serenil, who will be having double bypass surgery.

Service Roster

Week of July 5, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Jake Jacobs
Offering..... Barry Lehtinen
Assist..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer..... Ken Dorries

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Clifton Rutherford/
Bryce Dolan

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Doug Jobs
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran
Devotional Doug Jobs

Other

Prepare CommunionKaty & Maya McCoy

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Kanin Jacobs.....July 9

Anniversaries

Mark & Nia FitzSimmons.....July 9

Summer Series Wednesday Night Classes

Every Wednesday night during the Summer session, the Adults will be learning about “Questions Jesus Asked” and the Children will be learning about “Biomimicry: God invented it First”. Please join us at 7pm.

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

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those
who spitefully use you.
Luke 6:28 NKJV

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 June 28, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....69
A.M. Worship.....97
P.M. Worship.....68
Wednesday Worship.....74

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

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

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