midtown MESSENGER

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The Wrath of Dan…

By: Dan Jenkins

Bible study that changes one's life is not an intellectual exercise of finding verses and memorizing them. Simply finding truth is not the ultimate aim. Knowledge helps, but it does not change who we are. Can I share with you one approach I use as I read the Bible? The Bible uses the word "man" in so many places, and I often read a verse that has the word "man" in it and substitute the word "Dan" in its place.

For example, when I read that "…it is appointed unto man once to die," I make it personal and read it again as, "…it is appointed unto Dan once to die." Doing this helps me see how what God says applies in my daily life. Your name doesn't have to rhyme, but let me encourage you to put your name in these verses.

I have struggled all my life with controlling my temper and anger. One verse that helps me is one that talks about a man's anger. So, I read the verse that says, "The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (Jas. 1:20) and change it to speak of the wrath of Dan. That's personal and that helps me change my life.

Now with this truth as a basis, look at how what the Bible says about anger and wrath becomes part of the process of trying to become like Jesus. The word "man" is not found in many of them, but I read them and think about how these verses apply to me. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up strife" (Prov. 15:1). My name is not in this verse, but my life is. Look at how the ESV translates Proverbs 15:18. "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention." As I read these words, I remember that the "…the wrath of Dan does not produce the righteousness of God."

Look at it again. "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (Jas. 1:19). This is not the way I read it, for I read it, "Let every Dan be swift to hear…" That makes it personal. I know by experience that "…the tongue no 'Dan' can control" (Jas. 3:8, DJV), but I try to write what God has said about controlling anger on my heart, on my soul. I read them as if God is personally speaking to me. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:31-32).

This article is not about me. It is written to encourage every reader to read the words of the Bible as though God is speaking directly to each one who reads. Make His instruction and admonitions personal. Bible study is not about reading. It is about writing His words on our hearts!

Have I, in So Doing, Fulfilled My Purpose?

By: Selected

It can be easy for us to forget or overlook it sometimes, but we have a defined purpose on this earth, as specified for us by God Himself. We can get so wrapped up in the affairs of daily living that our sights get set more "on things on the earth" than "on things above" (Col. 3:2).

Likely this is why God regularly reminds us in Scripture that "it is He who made us, and not we ourselves" (Psa. 100:3), and that having been "bought with a price," we are "not [our] own" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Jesus tells us that we are to let our light shine (Matt. 5:16). But why? We are to love and serve one another (John 13:34-35). But why? We are "created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10). But why? What is our purpose?

Our purpose is summarized in passages such as these. "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Through us is to "be made known" the "manifold wisdom of God," that the beauty of His church might be on full display (Eph. 3:9-11). All that we do is designed to help others to see Christ (1 Cor. 11:1; Gal. 2:20) and to "glorify God" (1 Pet. 2:11-12). That! That is my purpose! Thus, everything that I say and do must be measured against that purpose—"Have I, in what I say and what I do, fulfilled my purpose?"

When I give someone a piece of my mind, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I keep myself distanced from involvement in the church other than Sunday morning attendance, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I post mockeries or rebukes of fellow Christians on social media, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I prioritize my children's sports and extracurricular activities over the church, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I choose to go along with the wishes of society and remain silent about godly values and Biblical morality, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I regularly post and comment about divisive political matters but rarely or never post about Christ and His church, have I fulfilled my purpose?

When I talk to folks about nearly everything under the sun but choose to avoid discussing the gospel of Jesus and their soul's destiny, have I fulfilled my purpose?

Do you know what Jesus says about someone who does not fulfill their God-given purpose? These are His words. Such individuals are "good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men" (Matt. 5:13). May God help me to examine myself and set out daily to fulfill HIS purpose!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. Please bring a dish/dessert to share with visitors. There will be a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow.

Sunday, October 11: Monthly youth devotional after evening services hosted by the Sheeran family. Girls bring desserts, boys bring drinks.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Cassandra Turner, friend of Summer Siegel, is requesting prayers for her mother Jan. Jan underwent heart bypass surgery in Houston this past week but had some complications and had to be put on a ventilator.

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

Randy D'Herde's mother, Nancy, is doing better.

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 4, 2026

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song Leader ..... Genesis Williams

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

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 .....Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer.....Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer.....Clifton Rutherford

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

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

Other
Prepare Communion for Oct.....Bass

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays
Tamyra Carroll.....Oct. 1
Joyce Faires.....Oct. 2

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
And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 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 September 27, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....66
A.M. Worship.....115
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Worship.....56

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/

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