

NEWS

Curtis Scroggins was sick Wednesday night and was not in our service——**Cary Rust**, Betty Rust's son and Karen Ferguson's brother, had knee replacement surgery recently. He is doing well. If you would like to send a card, his address is End R.V. Camp L9, 17122 FM 344 W, Flint, TX 75762—— Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson and Ronald Stringer**——Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 572-1219
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 572-9306

DEACONS:

Ron Burns 577-9978
Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHER:

Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

October 13, 2013

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: **Leon Goff**

Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**
Curtis Scroggins **Alec Capel**

Sunday Evening

Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—William White (Opening)
—Kenneth Amerson (Closing)

PM—Ken Ferguson (Opening)
—Pat Marshall (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Kendall Johnson

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Think It Over——If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

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Emotional Release Is Not Repentance

By Glen Young

In life, there are unusual occurrences that cause us to marvel. One such phenomenon occurs as the result of preaching. Upon preaching a strong sermon that reproves and rebukes sin and the sinner, the preacher will receive accolades from Christians for preaching “just what I needed, preacher!” It does not matter who the preacher is, or how often the lesson is preached, it is the same response.

Why is this response a phenomenon? It is a phenomenon because the ones who acknowledge the benefit of a condemnatory message fail to repent, or so it seems. It is one thing to appreciate preaching that condemns a sinful lifestyle, it is quite another to derive some kind of absolution from just the hearing of such a message.

It appears as if some Christians have become spiritual masochists. They seem to be pleased with some preacher giving them forty lashes with the Word of God. Jonathan Edwards, a preacher in the American colonies, was said to have a sermon where he depicted mankind as being suspended over Hell by a fragile thread ready to break. His delivery was so powerfully graphic that grown men moaned audibly and delicate women swooned in their seats. Certainly, the sermon elicited a reaction. However, audible moaning or swooning does not equate with repentance and neither does appreciation for reproof of one's sin.

Some Christians are using good strong sermons that condemn the sin in their lives as a catharsis rather than repenting. Catharsis is a technique or

action used to relieve tension and anxiety by bringing repressed feelings and fears to consciousness. It works as follows. The sermon causes the hearer to feel condemnation for their sin. It does this by bringing repressed feelings of guilt to the forefront of the conscious mind. This in turn, relieves the emotional pressure that has been building up. The sinner now feels better for having experienced this episode. It is comparable to having a good cry when you have the blues. The sinner feels better, but no repentance has occurred, thus leaving them in the same sinful condition as before.

Sermons that are Bible centered present us with opportunity to view ourselves as God sees us. James puts it this way, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”* (James 1:22-25) Failure to be a doer of the Word is to squander the precious gift of eternal life. John the baptizer knew this very thing. Listen to him as he says, *“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in*

keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Matthew 3:7-10) John the baptizer admonished his audience to bear fruit as a result of repentance. Where fruit (acts of repentance) is absent, there is no repentance.

The nature of repentance is a change of mind that affects a change of conduct. Where there is no change in one’s conduct, there is no repentance. Jesus spoke the following, illustrating the nature of repentance. *“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”* (Matthew 21:28-31).

The first son exemplifies repentance. He changed his mind and then he changed his life. He not only regretted that he told his father no; he went and worked in the field.

Paul addresses the changed life of the Christian on this wise. *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* (Romans 12:1-2) *“Be transformed”* is translated from the Greek, metamorphoo. We also get the English word metamorphosis from this word. Every time we see the change that takes place with the lowly caterpillar that becomes the majestic butterfly, we should understand that a completely changed life is necessary to be a Christian. It should go without saying that Paul is commanding a change from the sinful to the righteous and not the other way around.

The next time you hear a sermon that “steps on your toes” as we are wont to say, do not allow the opportunity to pass. Allow yourself to feel the flood of remorse for your sin. However, do not use this catharsis as a substitute for repentance. Remember; *“No, I tell you but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish,”* spoken by Jesus as recorded in Luke 13:5.

—The Pound Proclaimer, September, 2013

Change in Schedule

Todd and Laura Banning will not be with us today because of conflicts in their schedules. The plan now is for them to be with us the third Sunday in October, the 20th.

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Our Fall Gospel Meeting!!!

Bubba Garner will be the speaker in our meeting, **November 3—8**. Bubba has been with us in a couple of weekend meetings and was really appreciated for his good preaching. Bubba works with the Southside church in Pasadena, TX, along with Dee Bowman. Our meeting begins just four weeks from today. We need to be making our plans for the meeting. Praying for our meeting would certainly be in order. Pray for Brother Bubba, pray for our efforts, begin talking about the meeting with your relatives, friends and acquaintances. Make preparations to be in every service possible. Let’s have a good meeting!

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Gospel Meetings This Week!

Randy Harshbarger is the speaker in a meeting at the **Rice Road Church in Tyler, Sunday through Wednesday, Oct. 6-9, 7:00 weeknights.**

Shane Carrington is the speaker in a meeting at **Bradley, AR, Sunday through Friday, Oct. 6-11, 7:30 weeknights.**