

## News

**Elaine Conratt** was sick last Sunday and Wednesday with an upper respiratory infection—**Randy Blackmon** was having pain last Sunday from possible kidney problem and was not in our services, but he was back with us Wednesday night—**Catherine Moss** has continued to have problems with arthritis and other medical issues and she was not in our service this past Sunday—It has been good to see **Thomas Hockaday** back in our services following his knee surgery. He has completed his rehab at home and will be continuing (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**Ricky Davis** 572-9428  
**Ken Ferguson** 572-4135  
**Pat Marshall** 572-9347

### SERVICES:

#### Sunday

**Bible Study** 9:45 AM  
**Worship** 10:30 AM  
**Worship** 5:00 PM

#### Wednesday

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

### PREACHERS:

**Jared Rogers** 682-300-3602  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR: December 25, 2016

#### Serving The Lord's Supper Sunday Morning

Scripture: Andrew Arnold

**Phil Brown** Zach Willeford  
**Colton Fulmer** Enoch Waldrep

#### Sunday Evening

**Phil Brown** Zach Willeford

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Randy Blackmon** (Opening)

—**Paul Chapman** (Closing)

PM—**Bob Arnold** (Opening)

—**Alec Capel** (Closing)

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Kendall Johnson**

P.M.—**Kenneth Amerson**

(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

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

Volume XXIII

December 18, 2016

Number 51

## “Examine...Hold Fast...Abstain”

By *Shane Carrington*

*“Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.” 1 Thess. 5:19-22*

In last week's article, based on this text, we discussed two related dangers: quenching the Holy Spirit and despising the prophetic utterances that came from Him. Our view of the Holy Spirit-inspired word should lead us to treasure it, hunger and thirst for it, study it, meditate upon it, and incorporate it into our lives. Through this powerful message God can change us from what we are “to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).

What a blessing to be transformed, through the message of the cross, into having hearts, minds and souls like our Savior! Thank God for putting the tools of spiritual strength at our fingertips. May we make good use of them!

The next part of the passage instructs us in...

**Three important Steps:** “*Examine...Hold Fast...Abstain*”

Valuing the Holy Spirit inspired word will also instill in us a desire to

“examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good abstain from every form of evil” 1 Thess. 5:21,22

With the Holy Spirit's measuring line in our heads, hearts, and hands, we can do these three things:

**Step One:** *“Examine Everything Carefully”*

Take no attitude, belief, or practice for granted, whether pertaining to morality or “religious” practices. Examine them carefully. Rather than quenching the Spirit or despising prophetic utterances, use the precious word of God to measure all of these.

**Step Two A:** *“Hold Fast to That Which is Good”*

Having examined it carefully, if based on the teaching of scripture you find it “good,” hold fast to it. “Buy truth, and do not sell it” (Prov. 23:23a). Be unwilling to compromise the truth of God, regardless of what human rationale or emotional plea offered. Truth is truth, and we must stand with God by standing in it.

**Step Two B:** *“Abstain From Every Form of Evil”*

This one has sometimes been misunderstood, based on the King James Version's rendering — “Abstain from all appearance of evil” — to mean, if you are not sure, but it could be construed as evil, then you must abstain from it. Things, like playing cards (even if you are not gambling) and buying products from a store

with a questionable (or even worse) political agenda, have been blanketed by some as wrong based on this phrase. Some are dogmatic in demanding their view about this too.

But that is not what this verse means. “Abstain from every form of evil” (NASB) is an excellent rendering of this verse. “Form” means “a variety of something, kind.” (A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT, 3rd edition, Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich, p.280) “...from every kind of evil or wrong...” (Thayer's Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament, p, 172). “It never has the sense of *semblance*” (Word Studies in the New Testament, Marvin R. Vincent, vol. IV, p. 51).

Further, this verse is telling us the opposite of the previous: upon examining a thing, if you find it good, cleave to it; if you find it evil, abstain from it. Using this differently than the context demands is using it contrary to Paul's, and thus the Holy Spirit's, intended purpose. May we not quench the spirit — or despise prophetic utterances -- by using His revealed word contrary to his obvious, intended, contextual purpose.

**Applications**

How do we apply these principles? Based on the following passages (and any other New Testament teaching), when we examine these beliefs/practices, should we “hold fast” to them OR “abstain” from

them as forms of “evil”? Insert an “H” for “hold fast” OR an “A” for “abstain” in the blank before each line in this list.

- \_\_\_baptism unto salvation (Mark 16:16)
- \_\_\_women preaching to men (1 Tim. 2:11,12)
- \_\_\_infant baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
- \_\_\_Immersion as baptism (Rom. 6:3-4)
- \_\_\_divorce and remarriage for any cause (Matt. 19:3-12)
- \_\_\_practicing homosexuals going to heaven (Rom. 1:26,27)
- \_\_\_the necessity of following the pure gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)

It is not sufficient to say, “I don't see anything wrong with ...” or “it seems to me ...” We need a scriptural basis for what we believe and practice. May we be discerning – not despising — by cleaving to the Spirit-inspired prophetic utterances.

**Conclusion**

“Examine...Hold Fast...Abstain”: this brief formula is far-reaching and powerful when trying to understand God's word. Let Him speak through letting the prophetic utterances revealed by the Holy Spirit stoke the fires of our enthusiasm and understanding, spirit and truth, heart and life. We thus glorify and honor Him; He is worthy!

—Sulphur Springs church Bulletin

**Sunday Evening Time Change**

The elders have decided to change our Sunday evening meeting time from 6:00 to 5:00. Let's be here at 5:00 tonight.

**Ladies of Light**

Will have their annual meeting on Saturday, January 7, 2017, beginning at 10:00 AM.

**Our 13th Annual Singing**

Will be Friday night, January 20, 2017, beginning at 7:30 PM. Every year has been characterized by an auditorium full, great singing, with excellent song leading by Tim Steven, Dane Shepard and Todd Dennis over the last several years. Let's have another wonderful evening of worshiping God in singing, and encouraging one another.

**NEWS** (continued from back)

rehab at the Chambers facility—**Carr McElroy's** father has been battling cancer for some time and recently has not been doing very well. Prayers are requested for him—Remember **Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, William White, Catherine Moss, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Maurine Lee, Wanda Sikes, Vivian Stroman and Lelda Thompson.**