

NEWS

Marion Shurtleff has been moved to Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Room B413. She was having breathing issues and it was decided she could get more of what she needed in Tyler. She seemed to be doing reasonably well Thursday afternoon—**Betty Rust** fell this past week, but no damage was found—**Karen Ferguson** was not feeling well Wednesday night and was not in our service—**Dale Rockett** was back in our service Wednesday night after being out for a few services as a result of bronchitis and upper respiratory problems. (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265

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:

Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

November 24, 2019

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Richard Montgomery

Royce Gibbs **Luke Arnold**
Enoch Waldrep **Carlos Garcia**

Sunday Evening

Royce Gibbs **Luke Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Jerry Wildman (Opening)**

—**Kenneth Amerson (Closing)**

PM—**Paul Chapman (Opening)**

—**Paul Relph (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**

P.M.—**Thomas Hockaday**

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Heaven

By Doy Moyer

It seems at times that heaven gets downplayed. There are several senses of the term “heaven” in Scripture. We may think of the “heavens and earth” as all of the universe (Gen 1:1), heaven as the expanse of the sky, or standing for spiritual hosts. Passages are numerous.

There is also ample evidence that heaven is used to refer to God’s dwelling and the place from which God establishes His authority and provides blessings. The passages below, I believe, sufficiently show this. As you consider these (and more, as this is not exhaustive), also consider that we are to seek that which is above, where Christ is (Col 3:1-4). If we know where Jesus is, then we know where we ought to be setting our minds.

Notice the repeated ideas that our hope is laid up in heaven, inheritance is reserved in heaven, names are recorded in heaven, and our treasures are to be stored up in heaven. This is vital, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If our treasure is where our hearts are, and the treasure we are laying up is to be in heaven, there where ought our hearts to be?

None of this diminishes the fact that our hope is in the resurrection (Phil 3:10-11), or that we look for the “new heavens and new earth” (2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1; Rom 8:18-25). It seems that some set “heaven” as our hope over against the “new heavens and new earth” and the resurrection as something entirely different. I don’t believe this is an either/or situation, but a both/and simply because passages are numerous on both counts yet are never put at odds with each other. Whatever the “new heavens and

new earth” will be like exactly as the new order to come, it will be completely in accord with heaven as God’s dwelling place and the holder of our treasure. If even now the tree of life is both in paradise and before God’s throne (Rev 2:7; 22:1-5), then there ought to be no problem with the idea of a new heavens and new earth also being called paradise and heaven. It certainly is no problem for God, though we may yet lack full understanding.

This hope will be fully realized in the resurrection, so all of this goes hand in hand. Yet these passages demonstrate that thinking of heaven is also what we ought to be doing now. Consider:

- The Kingdom is “of heaven” (Matt 3:2; 5:1ff; 10:7, 13, etc).
- The Father is “in heaven” (Matt 5:16, 45; 6:1; 7:11, 21; 10:31-33; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10, 14, 19; Mark 11:25).
- God’s will is done in heaven (Matt 6:9) and can be “bound in heaven” (Matt. 16:19).
- Treasures may be stored “in heaven” (Matt 6:20; 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22), and heaven is where reward is found (Luke 6:23).
- Heaven is the source of authority (Matt 21:25; Mark 8:11; 11:30-31; Luke 11:16; 20:4-5; John 3:27; Heb. 12:25).
- Angels are “in heaven” (Matt 22:30; Mark 12:25; 13:32; Luke 2:15), are “of heaven” (24:36), and “from heaven” (Luke 22:43; Gal 1:8).
- Heaven is distinguishable from earth (Matt 28:18) and contrasted with Hades (Luke 10:15).
- Names are recorded in heaven (Luke 10:20) and saints are “enrolled in heaven” (Heb 12:23).
- There is joy in heaven over sinners who repent (Luke 15:7).
- We sin “against heaven” (Luke 15:18), and God’s wrath is revealed “from heaven” (Rom 1:18).
- Jesus was carried up “into heaven” (Luke 24:51) and “went into heaven itself” (Heb 9:24); He is at “God’s right hand, having gone into heaven” (1 Pet 3:22). Heaven received Jesus (Acts 3:21). This answers the question of where Christ is and where we ought to be setting our minds.
- Jesus descended from heaven and into heaven (John 3:13, 31; 6:33, 38; 1 Cor. 15:47). The Master is “in heaven” (Eph 6:9; Col 4:1).
- The “third heaven” is equated with Paradise (2 Cor. 12:2-4). The Tree of Life is said to be in the “Paradise of God” (Rev 2:7), and the Tree of Life is also in God’s presence (Rev 22:1-5).
- A Christian’s citizenship is “in heaven” (Phil. 3:20).
- Hope is laid up in heaven (Col 1:5) and our inheritance is reserved in heaven (1 Pet 1:3-5)
- The Holy Spirit was sent from heaven (1 Pet 1:12). Jesus will come “from heaven” (1 Thess 1:10; 4:16; 1 Thess 1:7).

Never minimize the importance of thinking about heaven. However, God may bring about the complete fulfillment of our inheritance, the resurrection, or the new heavens and new earth, we are clearly taught to think in heavenly terms. All spiritual blessings in Christ as “in the heavenly places,” and we thank God because when Jesus, our hope, comes again, we will “appear with him in glory” (Col 3:4).

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The Age In Which We Live

It’s sad but true that we are living in an age of escalating secularism, humanism and materialism. Is it any wonder some people think it is difficult believing in God? Every effort is being made to rid people’s thinking of God. Godless evolution encroaches into every aspect of our educational system.

But the truth is, there is enough evidence of God’s existence to convince intellectually honest people there is a Creator, and God will definitely hold atheists accountable for denying Him. Psalm 14:1 says, “*The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.*” Thus, atheism is a matter of the heart, not of the head and not a conclusion formed because of evidence. It is not belief reached by research or honest investigation. As Rom. 1:20 says, “*Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*” Yes, what

God created is evidence of God’s creative power and wisdom—and it is inexcusable for people to refuse to see God in that evidence.

Think about it! If you were walking through a desert and came upon an automobile with the engine idling you would certainly see in it such obvious evidence of design that you would never theorize it might have been produced by an accidental explosion in a distant junk yard.

But, my friends, imagining an automobile resulting from an accidental explosion in a junkyard is easy compared to trying to explain the universe and life without God. “*For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God*” (Heb. 3:4). To advocate that there is no evidence for God in the visible universe is neither intellectual nor honest. Think on these things. —Dennis

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NEWS (continued from back page)

—**Enoch Waldrep’s brother** at last word was still living and recovering from his gun short wound—Remember, **Shawna Waldrep’s Aunt Tish, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Laverne McCurdy, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes.**