

NEWS

James Johnson entered the local hospital this past Wednesday, and at this writing it had not been definitely determined what his problem is. He did have some congestion and they were checking for pneumonia. He is in Room 433—**Tonette Harrel** continues in UT Health Hospital in Tyler and they are still having difficulty determining what her infection is—**Paul Relph** has been sick for more than a week, but he is reported to be some better—**Kenny Ferguson** was having chills during the day Wednesday and he (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:

January 19, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: **Richard Montgomery**

Jerry Wildman **Thomas Hockaday**
Jesse Carillo **Carlos Garcia**

Sunday Evening

Jerry Wildman **Thomas Hockaday**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Royce Gibbs (Opening)
—Kenneth Amerson (Closing)
PM—Paul Chapman (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Johnson
P.M.—Alec Capel
(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
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXVII

January 12, 2020

Number 2

Seventeenth Annual Singing

Next Friday Night January 17, 2020

7:30 PM

Song Directors

Tim Stevens, from Lindale, TX

Dane Shepard, from Blanchard, OK

Todd Dennis, from Maumelle, AR

Southside Church of Christ

1220 E. Ferguson Road

Mt. Pleasant, TX

Sour Grapes and Justice

Robert Turner

Ezekiel 18 is a marvelous chapter on the fairness and justice of God. Its message is in an Old Testament setting, but it portrays an attribute of God which is unchanged; and it should be read today.... with care.

The Israelites had a proverb? “The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge” ...by which they blamed their troubles on an earlier generation. God said, yes, your fathers sinned, but “ye have done evil more than your fathers.” “Every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.” (**Jer. 16:10-f; 31:29-30**).

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son.” The physical and environmental consequences of one generation’s sin may affect generations to come (**Ex. 20:5; 34:7**) but God categorically denies that the guilt of one is passed to another. By one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and so spiritual death; but all die (spiritually) “for that all have sinned.” (**Rom. 5:12**) THE death (see Greek) and THE righteousness (the extremes, viewed metaphorically) are through or by Adam and Christ respectively. But we are condemned as individuals, on the basis of individual sins; and

made righteous, through forgiveness, as we individually come to Christ. (**Rom. 5:17-21; Acts 2:38-41**) As Ezekiel records: “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord Jehovah.” (**v. 30**) We have such a God now. (**Rom. 2:2-11**)

Our text also shows that man can change from wicked to righteous and from righteous to wicked. Free agency is not limited to a one-way street. “If the wicked turns from all his sins that he hath committed, and keeps all my statutes...he shall live.” “But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness...None of his righteous deeds...shall be remembered in his trespass...and in his sin... in them shall he die.” (**v. 21-24**)

We are not judged by our past performance. To put it N.T. words, it is not enough that we once came into God’s light; we must continue “walking in the light.” The Jew pointed to his ancestry and past glory; and we drag out our baptismal certificate but God says, “What are you now? Are you striving to follow me today?” If you have been tempted to believe some sort of “cloak of righteousness” is spread over the impenitent sinner that his past answers for today, read Ezek. 18 carefully. (And study the subjunctive present “IF” we “walk” and “confess” of (**1 Jn. 1:7-9.**)

God says, through Ezekiel, “For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, ...wherefore turn yourselves, and live.” (**v. 32**) This idea is expressed in **2 Pet. 3:9** where we are told, “The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” The decision, in this life, is ours. We say “Yes” or “No” to God for a time! But we must meet Him in final judgment, where He will determine our eternal destiny. Are we doomed to repeat the errors of Ezekiel’s day despite our advantage in Christ??

Is God’s Marriage Law Out of Date?

By Dennis Abernathy

Those who really believe the Bible respect God’s marriage law. But those who advocate same-sex marriage have voted God’s Word out. What God has to say about marriage in His Word, means little to them. Thus, Scriptures that speak of “*husband*” and “*wife*” are either ignored or perverted (*See Gen. 6:24; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:22-25,28,31,33; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1, etc.*). Sadly, churches have fallen in line with such error. Ephesians 5:24, says the church is to be “*subject to Christ.*” And why not, since He is the “*Head of the church*” (*v. 23*)? But the “*same-sex-marriage*” folks have voted to reverse that and make Christ and the church subject to them! Sadly, many honor the Lord with their lips but their hearts are far from Him, and consequently

they “*teach as doctrines the commandments of men*” (*Matt. 15:9*). All such maintain a façade of religion, but deny its power and resist its influence (*2 Tim. 3:5*). These profess to acknowledge God, but by their actions they turn their backs on Him (*Tit. 1:16*). Think on these things.

—preachab@suddenlink.net

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NEWS (continued from back page)

was not in our service Wednesday night—**Elvira Harris** has another great granddaughter, Kailie Fulmer, born January 7, to Austin and Bre. We congratulate her and the parents—**Terry Jordan** came down with bronchitis this past week and he was not able to be in our service—**Dorothy Reynolds** has been sick recently, but she was back with us Sunday, but not Wednesday night—**Carolyn Davis** has been sick with bronchitis but she and Charles were both in our service Wednesday night—**Randy Blackmon** has recently been having diabetes problems, his numbers running between 300 and almost 500—Remember **Enoch Waldrep’s brother, 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.**