

NEWS

Dorothy Reynolds was sick recently and I overlooked mentioning her in the bulletin. She is better and it was good to see her in our service last Sunday morning—**Deborah Brown's**, Pat's daughter, cancer has returned again and she is going to be receiving more treatments—**Judy Hinson's** cancer has also returned and she went to her doctor in Dallas Thursday to determine the treatment—**Tonette Harrel** has been moved to Providence Park Rehabilitation, 5505 New Copeland Rd., Room 501, Tyler, TX 75703—**Kenneth Amerson** was not able to be in our service Sunday morning—**Paul Chapman** (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:

February 2, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Paul Relph

Shea Bilbo Luke Arnold
Bobby Burns Jerry Don Davis

Sunday Evening

Shea Bilbo Luke Arnold

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Jimmy Lewis (Opening)
—Willie Don Davis (Closing)
PM—R. Montgomery Opening)
—Ricky Davis (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Paul Chapman
(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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Hard Facts of Life from Ecclesiastes

By Wayne Goff

Ecclesiastes is written with an earthly view, "life under the sun." Moreover, it philosophizes about that life apart from God. Solomon, the author, summarizes the "hard facts of life" for which there is no solution and which is a burden to those who live only for the here and now.

1: No Justice, 3:16-17. "Moreover I saw under the sun: in the place of judgment, wickedness was there; and in the place of righteousness, iniquity was there" (3:16). While government is better than anarchy, human government is often filled with corruption and injustice. This chafes the mind of the good man, and he knows there is no solution in this life.

2: No Hope, 3:18-21. "All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust" (3:20). Animals and people alike experience the same fate, inevitable death. From a purely earthly standpoint, one is no different from the other. This frustrates man because he is so much higher than the beast, but he cannot defeat death.

3. No Comfort, 4:1-3. "Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: and look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter — On the side of their oppressors there is power, but they have no comforter." How often the poor and helpless have no benefactor! Life is not fair to those who have been born in a lowly station in life. There is no solution for the problem.

4: No Rest, 4:4-6. "Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind." Rather than appreciate the one who has accomplished much

with his wisdom and hard labor, Solomon discovered that the neighbor's envy ruins the pleasure one might derive from his work. Everybody is trying to "keep up with the Joneses" and there never is the satisfaction of having made the final "best."

5: No Companionship, 4:7-12. "Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun: there is one alone, without companion: he has neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors, nor is his eye satisfied with riches. But he never asks, 'For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good' This also is vanity and a grave misfortune" (4:7-8). There is nothing worse than loneliness for the man who has accomplished much, accumulated wealth, and has no one to rejoice in it with him, and no one who will appreciate it when he is gone. Just the same, man goes on with his work as though he is accomplishing something permanent. It only has a vain end.

6: No Security, 4:13-16. Today's king is tomorrow's deposed ruler! People are fickle. They always want the next thing. Every ruler must look over his shoulder. In this life, without God, everything is vain.

Duty

Ken Weliever

The story is told that during the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson one of his secretaries suggested dropping work for a diversion which he knew would appeal to

the President.

"My boss won't let me do it," replied President Wilson.

"Your boss?" questioned the Secretary, wondering who could be the boss of the chief executive of the United States.

"Yes, I have a conscience that is my boss," said Wilson. "It drives me to the task, and will not let me accept the tempting invitation."

Our word of the week, "duty" has received a bad rap. It sounds unappealing. Forced. Arduous. Onerous. Laborious. Boring. And burdensome.

Yet, a proper, balanced sense of duty drives us to be true to our conscience. Fulfill our responsibilities. Keep our commitments. And grow our character.

The German statesman and writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe expressed it this way: "How shall we learn to know ourselves? By reflection? Never, but only through action. Strive to do your duty, and you will know what is in you."

Approached in the right way, duty provides for us a sense of equilibrium between working for the Lord with a forced, slavish attitude because we have to and serving only for the opportunity of a reward. Christian Inventor and industrialist R.G. LeTourneau once observed, "If you give because it pays, it won't pay."

The servant in Jesus' illustration in Luke 17:7-10 worked in the field, tending

to the sheep, came in and prepared his Master supper without regard to his own personal needs. The servant doesn't expect to eat first. Or receive any special commendation.

Likewise, Jesus said, "when you have done all those things which your are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

Christian duty is exercised because of our love for the Master. For his grace and mercy. And because we sincerely desire to joyfully serve Him and our fellow man. My favorite writer, anonymous wrote, "Duty without enthusiasm becomes laborious, duty with enthusiasm becomes glorious."

What an honor, pleasure, and privilege it is to faithfully discharge our responsibilities. When every relationship whether in our homes, vocations, friendships or churches is approached with the spirit of delight for duty, it isn't a burden but a blessing.

Fidelity to duty builds trust in our relationships. Assures dependability. And offers predictability. Family, friends and our brethren know they can always count on us.

Colonel Abraham Davenport, who served during the American Revolution was a speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives in the late 1700's. On the day known as New England's dark day, May 19, 1780, when the sky turned ominously dark, some feared it was a sign that the Judgment Day was approaching. So, there was a clamor for immediate adjournment.

Davenport arose and is famous for his response. "I am against adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for an adjournment; if it is, I choose to be found doing my

duty."

The American poet, John Greenleaf Whittier composed a poem about Davenport and this day that closed with these words.

And there he stands in memory to this day, erect, self-poised, a rugged face, half seen against the background of unnatural dark, a witness to the ages as they pass, that simple duty hath no place for fear.

Indeed, doing our duty calls for courage and conviction. Determination and dedication. Steadiness and steadfastness.

In the words of Helen Keller, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."

NEWS (continued from back page)

has been sick for over a week with an upper respiratory infection, but he plans to be in our service today—**Peggy Bellamy** was sick this last week and was not in our services last Sunday and Wednesday—**Nova Montgomery** was sick with an upper respiratory infection this past week and was not in our service Wednesday night—**Cindy Gibbs** was not feeling well last Sunday and was not in our services—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.**