

NEWS

Terry Jordan says he is doing fine following his sinus surgery. He goes back to see his sinus doctor this coming Thursday, and if all is going well, the doctor will release him. After that he will be able to contact his heart doctor in Shreveport to schedule his heart valve replacement surgery—I am doing fine following my finger surgery, but looking forward to getting this bandage off a week from this coming Tuesday. Some things I have to do with one hand and that is a challenge for this young fellow—Also, I need you to inform me (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265
Richard Montgomery—
936-577-4819

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:

May 24, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture:

Sunday Evening

PRAYERS

Sun. AM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

PM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—

P.M.—

(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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Number 13

“The Just Shall Live By Faith”

By Leon Goff

“But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’” (Gal. 3:11).

Do I believe this? Absolutely! But does this obligate me to believe that obeying God’s commands has nothing to do with my salvation? Absolutely not! Those who take this view are making their own definition of what justification by law or by works of law means. Why not let God define what it means? He does so in the context, in the verse immediately before the Scripture quoted above.

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’” (Gal. 3:10). That is plainly saying that one cannot commit one sin without forfeiting the right to claim justification by works of law. Jesus is the only responsible person to ever live a perfectly sinless life. He didn’t commit one sin. All of us other folks have sinned. Paul writes, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23).

What does “justification by faith” mean? It does not mean justification by the act of believing without any further acts of obedience. How do I know that? “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only (James 2:24). James also says, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Does thus contradict the other scriptures that teach we are not justified by works of law? Absolutely not. Remember that justification by law is “sinless perfection.” None of us will be saved this way.

James further writes, “*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect*” (**James 2:21-22**). Abraham was not sinless, but his obedience (works) completed his faith. Abraham’s works showed his faith in God. “*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance*” (**Hebrews 11:8**). His obedience did not prove he was sinless, or that he had earned his justification. His obedience was an act of faith in God. What if Abraham had said to God when God told him to leave his home, “God, I believe in you, but I don’t see any sense in going to a place I know nothing about.” Would his faith have been pleasing to God. No, it would have been a dead faith.

Now, let’s go back to Galatians 3 and apply these principles to what we have learned. “*For you are all sons (children) of God through faith in Christ. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (**Gal. 3:26-27**). How many, according to Paul, were sons of God through faith in Christ? “*as many of you as have been baptized into Christ.*” Baptism is an act of faith. It is as much an act that perfects (completes) our faith in Christ as Abraham’s obedience completed his faith. Jesus died and paid for our forgiveness through the grace of God. Baptism doesn’t earn anything. It is not a part

of works of law by which we claim right standing with God (justification) on the basis that we have earned it by sinless perfection. How could anyone come up with the idea that we pay for and earn our forgiveness (salvation) by submitting to having someone bury us in a pool of water. It is an act of faith. It is not a boasting act. It is a sinner trusting in the savior to save him when he has enough faith to meet the condition the savior requires. Submitting to baptism is a sinner saying, “God be merciful to me.”

I have recently read a commentary on the book of Galatians by John R.W. Stott. Most of it is excellent. However, since he is influenced by the human theological system of Calvinism, he yields to judging Galatians by his Calvinistic views. With regard to Galatians 3:27, he writes, “*This whole Epistle is devoted to the theme that we are justified through faith, not circumcision. It is inconceivable that Paul should now substitute baptism for circumcision and teach that we are in Christ by baptism.*” (p. 99). It is disappointing and sad to see Stott put baptism in the same category as circumcision. Paul told the Galatians, “*if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing....you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace*” (**Gal. 5:2-4**). The logical consequences of Stott’s point is that “if you become baptized, Christ will profit you nothing....you have fallen from grace.” Circumcision is not part of “the faith.” Paul put baptism under “the faith.”

Have You Outgrown The Bible?

By Dennis Abernathy

I saw a story about a soldier in World War II, who found himself on a small south Pacific island talking with one of the natives. As they talked, the native brought out the Bible. “*This is my most prized possession,*” he said. Turning up his nose, the soldier sneeringly said, “*I outgrew that sort of thing years ago.*” “*Well,*” replied the native, “*It’s a good thing for you we haven’t outgrown it here. If we had, you would have been a meal as soon as we saw you.*”

I don’t know how historical that little story is, but I do know one thing: people never really outgrow the Bible, and people who think they have outgrown the Bible ought to realize how fortunate they are to live in a land where many people still do respect it!

Consider: As bad as things are in our society today, they would certainly be much worse if it were not for the millions of people who are sincerely trying to live up to the teaching of the Bible. Think of the thousands killed and maimed by drunk drivers, and how that number might well be multiplied many times over, if it weren’t for the influence of the Word of God upon those who respect it. (Prov. 23: 29-35).

Think of the venereal diseases that run rampant through our land because of sexual immorality. It would surely be much worse if it were not for the influence of God’s Word upon those in our nation

who still respect the morality of the Bible. (1 Cor. 6: 18).

And think of the crime plaguing our nation. Thank God for the influence of His Word that keeps millions of people from joining in the violence and crime. Yes, some people tell themselves they have outgrown the Bible, but even they can be thankful that many in our nation still respect it and try to live by its high standards. Think on these things.

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Appreciation

I really appreciate, and I’m sure I write the sentiments of the other elders, your excellent cooperation in following the safety rules in our service last Sunday. Keep it up. Also, remember Drew’s Sunday morning and Wednesday night online lessons. Excellent lessons.

NEWS (continued from back page)
of your illnesses and other news, especially if you contract Covid 19. That will enable me to inform all the members of Southside—Remember **Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, 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.**