

NEWS

Terry Jordan had his heart valve surgery last Monday in Shreveport, and came through the surgery fine. Tuesday night he had an irregular heart beat (a-fib), and that extended his stay in ICU until Thursday—**Slade Bilbo** had a four wheeler accident last weekend and broke his wrist. This is added to Meredith's torn muscle in her leg—**Tonette Harrel** is scheduled for surgery in Tyler this next Wednesday. She has decided to have a lumpectomy. She will receive radiation treatments following surgery—**Laverne McCurdy**, Yvonne (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:

June 28, 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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It's Just Too Simple

By Doy Moyer

Years ago I spent over 8 hours one day studying with a youth minister from an evangelical church. While there was much to agree on, there were many issues over which we disagreed. We discussed salvation, the church, worship, among other topics, and we did it with a spirit of friendliness. At the end of the day, he said, "I see what you are saying, and I can see what the Bible says. But what you are talking about is just too simple. There has to be more to it than that." With this, he dismissed the conclusions of the study. Years bring deeper perspective, and over the years I have been more impressed with this point of simplicity.

It is not some elaborate, complex system, and this may tempt us to fill in blanks and add more to it. Like Naaman, dissatisfied with Elisha's charge to dip in the Jordan (2 Kings 5), we may want something greater.

Perhaps it seems too simple for some, but is that a reason to reject it? Some have argued that there is no pattern for corporate worship in Scripture, that nothing has been revealed about what God really wants in worship. Therefore, we are pretty much free to do as we wish as long as we don't violate something strictly prohibited. This assumes, not just that a little has been said, but that virtually nothing has been said about it, and therefore it is entirely up to us to decide how we like it.

What is revealed about worship in the New Testament is simple. It is not non-existent; it's just not complicated. It is not some elaborate, complex system, and this may tempt us to fill in blanks and add more to it. Like Naaman, dissatisfied with Elisha's charge to dip in the Jordan (2 Kings 5), we may want something greater. Surely that's what God wants, right? This is a problem for those who like more elaborate styles of worship (e.g., big

production music shows). The fact of simplicity is difficult for some to swallow it seems, so they reject the uncomplicated in favor of more complex avenues. We may use that simplicity as an excuse to make worship conform to the way we really want it. Does it not seem that we find ourselves tending more to the complex things in our religious actions and services? Has it not always been this way?

That answer still rings in my ears after all these years: what the Bible actually says about it is just too simple; there has to be more to it. So we supply that “more,” and we feel justified in doing so. We desire more pomp, more ceremony, more show, so we devise worship in ways that would make us happy. At some point we must ask, “Is this really about God or is it more about what I like?”

What has God revealed about His will on corporate worship? Nothing elaborate or complex, but there is revelation on the matter. Has He revealed that He likes singing from the heart (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)? That he likes His people to pray together (Acts 4:23ff)? For Christians to meet together regularly (Heb 10:23-25)? To partake of the Lord’s Supper together? (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:18ff)? To teach and admonish, and encourage one another through His word? (Acts 20:32; Eph 4:11ff)? Of course, He wants all of this to be done from hearts that desire to please and glorify Him. Let’s not confuse something that is relatively simple with it not being profound or deep. Sometimes the more profound ideas are the least compli-

cated. We need to learn to think them through and appreciate how the Lord has asked us to serve Him.

Perhaps some may say that I’m just oversimplifying this whole matter. But how so? Where do we read of anything more elaborate or complicated in the New Testament? Where is the pomp and show? Again, it seems to me that the lack of such complexity is what gives rise to the idea that the New Testament says so little about worship. It doesn’t need to say much, but it says enough to let us know what pleases God (Heb 11:6). I realize we have some liberties. I know the Bible does not specify every action in particular. But let’s make sure that any action we take, especially in worship, is truly geared toward pleasing God His way and according to His word instead of using that simplicity as an excuse to do what we want. If God left it uncomplicated, isn’t that reason enough for us to leave it at that?

Even more, let’s make sure we approach God with the proper spirit, and not just in our corporate worship. Micah captured this thought centuries ago (6:6-8):

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

One Confession

Kendall Johnson made confession of wrongs last Sunday morning. He is to be commended for his heart and courage to desire to be right with God and his fellow human beings. Kendall does many good things for Southside.

Paul Coffman and His Evangelism Trip to Kenya and Uganda

The elders of Southside have made a commitment to him for funds from the church, and other churches are being given an opportunity to help. Some have already helped.

He is also asking for individual contributions because there are works and expenses that come up in these trips that do not classify as works of the church, but are worthy and necessary things to be done. Each of us as members of Southside are being given the opportunity to be a part of this. We don’t want anyone to feel forced to give, but if you desire to have a part in this it will be appreciated. And any amount that you are comfortable with will be appreciated. And what any of us gives will together be of much help in Paul’s work of preaching the gospel and estab-

lishing congregations.

Paul’s plans are to leave August 3rd and he will be gone through most of September as well. If you have questions, ask Paul. He will be happy to answer.

Maintaining Our Faith

I encourage all of us to be diligent in our service to the Lord. We are living in an unusual time which affects our meeting as we ordinarily have in the past. Let’s all make sure, especially when we are not able to attend services, to continue studying and worshiping with faithful churches on line. There are many good Bible lessons being presented on facebook, including those done by Drew.

NEWS (continued from back page)
White’s sister, who has been battling cancer for some time, passed away last Tuesday night. Her funeral service is/was at 2:00 Saturday, June 23, and visitation at 1:00 at Bates-Cooper-Sloan. We express our sincere sympathy to Yvonne and all her loved ones—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, Enoch Waldrep’s brother, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes.**