

NEWS

Terry Jordan is doing well since his surgery and arrangements were being made to transfer him from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility. They are hoping to get one in Longview—Tonette Harrel had her lumpectomy surgery Wednesday. It was day surgery so she came home the same day. A niece is staying with her—Matt and Charlyn Harrel had their vacation planned for this time and they are visiting their friends in California. They are the friends they helped through the surgery last year—Slade Bilbo broke both arms (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:

July 5, 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
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

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Why (not how) Were You Saved?

By Philip C. Strong

Of course God wants you to “*come to the knowledge of the truth*” and be eternally saved in heaven with Him - He wants that for everyone, 1 Timothy 2:4. This is the ultimate end goal. But for many Christians, they obeyed the gospel of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Mark 16:15-16) in their youth or young adulthood. Is just trying to “*remain faithful*” for the rest of their lives in order to go to heaven the sole objective of salvation? Don't misunderstand - such is surely important (cf. Hebrews 3:12), but is that all there is to it? Again, “**Why were you saved?**”

It was **not** just:

- So you could have a *better* or more *blessed* life here - though such may happen, it may not, cp. Matthew 5:3-10 and Matthew 10:38-39;
- So you could have a better *family* or *family life* here - though the gospel will make you a better husband, wife, parent, child, etc., it may also cost you your family cp. Ephesians 5:22 - 6:4 and Matthew 10:34-37;
- To make you a better *person* here - it can make you *better*, Ephesians 4:25 - 5:10, or it might just make you *sad* and/or *bitter*, Matthew 19:13-22; 27:3-5; or,
- To make a better *citizen* here - again it can do just that, Romans 13:1-7, or it might make you a worse citizen, Acts 4:18-20; 5:29.

Obviously, your obedience to the gospel may accomplish any of

these things. But they are not “why” you were saved. You see, **your salvation is not JUST about you.** It is so easy in our present culture to become “me” oriented. Most everything is judged by how it affects “me” - my *life*, my *family*, my *job*, my *citizenship*, and even my *relationships*. Unfortunately for some, their own *salvation* is also apparently all that matters to them. It is the “why” they were saved, at least in their own minds. But there is a major problem with this type of thinking....

Question: Is that the way Jesus lived? Is that the way Jesus taught us to think, feel, and act? Is that the example He left us to follow? *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma,”* Ephesians 5:1-2. Think about this passage, please. Was His *loving sacrifice* offered to enable us to be better *people* and *citizens*, and have better *lives* and *families* or *family life*? Certainly not, it was to save us from sin, and enable us to have a better ETERNITY than eternal damnation! However, don’t stop here...

Remember also that God wants salvation **for everyone**, (don’t forget 1 Timothy 2:4). So consider some additional passages in these regards, and answer a few questions:

- Matthew 13:23. Exactly what is the

“*fruit*” that is to be born? (cf. John 15:8)

- Romans 7:4. Again, what “*fruit*” is to be produced from our being “*joined*” to our *spiritual Husband*? (cf. Ephesians 5:23ff)
- Hebrews 6:7-8. In keeping with the imagery of *seed*, *soil*, and *rain*, what are we to be producing that is “*useful*” to the Master? (cf. 2 Timothy 2:21)

Ok, I know - I’ve cited a lot of passages, but have not directly answered the question posed in our title: “Why were you saved?” If it’s not JUST to attain heaven and avoid hell when we die, what is it? Note 1 Peter 2:9-10 carefully, “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you were once not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*” Of course “personal salvation” is part of the purpose, as v.10 clearly indicates. But, v.9 also provides a purpose - “*that (a purpose word) you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you...*”! Thus, **my** salvation is not just about “me,” but also includes what I can and should do for the salvation of others. Please reread the parable of “The Unmerciful Slave” in Matthew 18:21-35; and then consider carefully and *personally*

v.33 relative to all that has been said above, “*Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow-slave, even as I had mercy on you?*” All who have been saved by God’s mercy have obligation to share the same with other needful *fellow-slaves*, don’t we? Think about it, won’t you?

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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 establishing 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.

Covid-19 and the Future

Some of you have been asking about what we will be doing in July and afterwards considering that the virus is still very present in our community. We are learning that it is being spread much more in certain kinds of situations. With the great increase in numbers in Titus county, so far as we know at this time, none of our members at Southside have had the virus. This is not to say that none of us will get the virus, but I think it testifies to the fact that our folks at Southside are being cautious and trying to observe the rules. We have decisions to make.

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NEWS (continued from back page) rather than just the one mentioned before—**Deborah Brown** is confined to bed, but she is doing reasonably well in some ways considering she had a stroke. Her speech is still affected some—**Gib Johnson**, nephew to Marion Shurtleff and a cousin to Janie Burns and Carolyn Davis, passed away and his funeral was last weekend. We express our sincere sympathy to them and their 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.**