

NEWS

Terry Jordan has received an A+ on his recovery from his doctor with regard to his heart valve recovery. He is planning to be with us in the service this Sunday—**Wanda Sikes**, as I mentioned last week, is on hospice. Her daughter, Kennette, reports that she is eating very little and sleeping a lot, and she is not expecting her to live much longer—**Brian Brownlee**, Doyle's oldest son, passed away unexpectedly this past Thursday. His body is being sent to Dallas for an autopsy. His arrangements will be made Monday. Prayers are (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 26, 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)

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

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

Bulletin

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(903) 572-2148

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A Separate People

By Foy Wallace, Jr.

The idea of separation in religion is as old as the Jewish race. Abraham was chosen of God to be the father of the chosen race. But idolatrous Ur of the Chaldees was not a land to nourish such a race. Influences were overwhelmingly against God's purpose to raise up a separate people. Hence, the call of God came to Abram to abandon country and kindred and seek a home in an unknown land. And that is the beginning of a separation—a separate family.

Years afterwards the posterity of Abraham, through a series of varied providential circumstances, settled in the land of Egypt. There they grew into a numerous race. Time developed that they could not serve God in Egypt. Separation was essential. God called them out of Egypt. A peculiar nation was formed at Sinai, with peculiar laws, a peculiar government, and a peculiar life and relations. In keeping this law and maintaining this separation Israel was blessed. But when they departed, changed their government (1 Samuel 8), served other gods (Deuteronomy 8:19), and formed alliances, they were rejected by God and subjected by their enemies. And only after reformation did God grant them restoration. (Ezekiel 10:10-11). The lesson of the story is separation—a separate nation.

But that is not the end of the story of separation. God still requires it—a separate church. As fleshly Israel was called out of Egypt, God has called the church, spiritual Israel, out of the world. And to retain the favor of God, the church must maintain that separation distinct and peculiar.

The church must maintain separation in speech. "Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard in me" (2 Timothy 1:13). The power of a united language is demonstrated in the Tower of Babel. It became the bond of an apostate union which God had to break up in a confusion of tongues. And it is so that unity and purity of speech—calling Bible things by Bible names—is a bond among Christians that will triumph over error and bring order out of confusion.

The church must maintain separation in doctrine. Paul's admonition to "speak thou the things that become sound doctrine" needs constant emphasis today. The New Testament command to "touch not, taste not and handle not," does not refer to strong drink, but to "the commandments and doctrines of men" (Colossians 2:21-22). It is a warning against flirting with error and fraternizing with denominationalism. The growing idea that the "church of Christ" is just a church among churches will prove fatal, and it must nor prevail. It is the church or nothing. It is one way or none. Any participation on the part of members of the church of Christ in denominational functions can only compromise the church and is detrimental to the cause of truth.

The church must maintain separation in worship. The Old Testament injunction to "take heed lest ye turn aside" has its counterpart in the New Testament counsel: "Let no man beguile you....intruding into those things which he hath not seen.... And not holding the Head,... after the commandments and doctrines of men. Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship" (Colossians 2:18-23). Self-devised worship is condemned along with man-written creeds and man-made doctrines. The New Testament Pattern must be adhered to.

Christians must maintain separation in life. Terms of dignity are applied to

Christians. The church is "a chosen generation;" it is "a royal priesthood" and "a holy nation." Christians are to "show forth the praises (or excellencies)" of God who called them.

The demand of the Bible upon Christians is to deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts" and to live "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

—Bible Banner, December 1941,
via Search.

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Can You Imagine?

Imagine, is defined, "To suppose, guess, think; form a mental image of something that is not present or that is not the case." I think of John Lennon's song: "Imagine." It is true, as he says, that people can imagine that there is no heaven, or hell, or religion, and that all people will live together in peace, but as Psalm 2:1 says, they "imagine a vain thing."

But, for the purpose of this article, Can you imagine, the apostle Paul saying: "We were sprinkled with Him through baptism?" (Rom. 6:4). The apostle Peter saying: "There is nothing in a name?" (Acts 4:12). Luke saying: "Those who were saved joined the church of their choice?" (Acts 2:47). Jude saying: "I don't think it is right to argue about the Bible?" (Jude 3). The apostle Peter saying: "Baptism does not same" or it is "not essential to salvation?" (1 Pet. 3:21). James saying: "Man is saved by

faith only?" (James 2:24). Ananias saying, "Brother Saul, get down and pray to get rid of your sins, calling on the name of the Lord?" (Acts 22:16). The apostle Paul saying: "You cannot fall from grace?" (Gal. 5:4). The apostle Paul saying: "You don't have to obey the gospel to be saved?" (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Jesus saying: "One church is as good as another?" (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28). Jesus saying: "There are many ways to get to heaven?" (Jn. 14:6). The apostle Paul saying: "One church is as good as another?" (Eph. 4:4); 1:22-23).

If you can imagine such things, you need to understand that there is a great difference in the Book of God and the book of one's own imagination! John Lennon was a dreamer, but I prefer not to believe or imagine things that are not present or that are not the truth! What about you my friend? Think on these things.

—Dennis Abernathy,
preachab@suddenlink.net

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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.

Paul's flights have now opened up for him to leave for Kenya and Uganda on August 3rd. If you plan to help him you need to do that soon. Also, he would like for someone to take him to the airport.

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NEWS (continued from back page) requested. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Doyle and Vickie and the family—**Richard Tapparo and Shirley Duncan** have decided that they were not exposed to the Covid 19—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, Enoch Waldrep's brother, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Betty Rust, 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.**