

NEWS

Linda Lorraine Glenn, Jerry Don Davis' mother-in-law (Lori's mother), passed away last Monday, August 10. Her funeral was conducted Thursday at Bates Cooper Sloan Funeral Home. She was buried in Conway, AR. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Lori, Jerry and all of their loved ones—My therapy and recovery from knee replacement has had some setbacks. Starting this past Wednesday I have been having severe pain in the knee area. We are not sure what is causing the problem, but I am fearful that my Sciatica may be (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
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:

August 23, 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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A Moment of Decision

By Terry Slack

It's been said our lives are the sum total of our choices. That's true spiritually, isn't it? Virtually everything we do for God involves making a decision. Our character is molded and shaped, not just by the choices we have made, but also by what we have tried to learn from them.

In Genesis 13 we find Lot facing a moment of decision that will prove life-changing. In the previous chapter we read of Abraham's departure from his homeland. His nephew, Lot, accompanies him on this journey of faith. As the years pass both men accumulate a significant amount of wealth. The limited resources prove a source of strife, so Abraham decides they need to part ways. Whatever direction Lot chooses, Abraham will go the opposite (Gen. 13:8-9). It is here we read of Lot's fateful decision: "Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere...like the garden of the Lord... So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan" (Gen. 13:10-11a).

The basis upon which Lot makes his choice is obvious. He sees a green, well-watered valley. For a herdsman, this was a place where labor would be easy and the potential for gain significantly increased. While Abraham appears content to place his welfare in the hands of God, Lot's decision is made selfishly (he doesn't contemplate the spiritual dangers involved). Lot would rue the day he declared his verdict.

By the time we arrive at Genesis 19 a number of changes have occurred. Previously, Lot had moved his tents "as far as Sodom" (13:12). Now he is living within the city and is himself seated at the gate. It's when a

couple of angelic visitors come to town we discover the tragic consequences of a *single decision*.

He lost some sense of moral judgment (19:8). The men of the city surround his home, insisting he bring the visitors out so they might “have relations with them” (19:5). Instead, Lot suggests his two virgin daughters. Though hospitality may have been a highly regarded responsibility in the ancient world, was it any more important than the parental responsibilities he had toward his children? His desire to protect his guests from sexual abuse is commendable; his willingness to subject his daughters to similar abuse is reprehensible.

He lost his influence over those close to him (19:14). It took courage for Lot to venture out into a city that had just clamored for his life, but he is convinced he must warn his future son-in-laws about the impending judgment. Rather than heed his counsel however, they believe him to be “jesting.” How many times had he claimed it was enough? How often had he stated his frustration with the city’s sin and threatened to pack up the U-Haul? Like the little boy who cried “wolf,” Lot’s past behavior seems to have inoculated these men against his present warning.

He lost his will to act (19:15-16). Though cognizant calamity is near, he hesitates when it comes time to leave. The reason for his vacillation is not revealed.

What we do know is that were it not for the Lord’s compassion (the angels seizing them by the hand), Lot and his family may have been victims of destruction rather than recipients of deliverance.

He lost his perspective on obedience (19:17-22). God commanded Lot to flee to the mountains, yet he is more focused on formulating his own plan. He fears the hills and desires instead to remain on the plain. He presumes upon God, making what he believes to be a “small” request. God graciously acquiesces. Throughout the account Lot’s safety is secured, not because of his willingness to submit, but because of the Lord’s consistent grace and mercy.

He lost his wife (19:26). Even a miraculous escape isn’t enough to overcome the pull of Sodom on Lot’s mate. Though directed by an angel’s hand and so near to safety, her heart remains within the walls of the wicked city. As she turns back, her hesitation proves fatal (19:26).

He lost his daughters (19:30-38). Lot’s wealth and wife are gone. All that remains is a pathetic trio seeking refuge in a damp cave. Believing themselves deprived of husbands, Lot’s daughters quickly implement a plan revealing that life in Sodom had eroded their moral fiber. Getting their father inebriated, they commit incest with him. The account of his life ends with this telling statement: “Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father” (v. 36)

Though he may have never participated in the sinful deeds of Sodom, Lot and his family were hardly immune to its influence. What makes this account even more sobering is the recognition that this tragedy began with a *single* decision. While some choices are insignificant, others are life-changing—and Lot reminds us when facing the latter, we had best choose well.

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Kendall Johnson Resigned from the Eldership August 2, 2020
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After serving the Southside Church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant, TX, faithfully for 17 years, he, by his own choice resigned. Kendall is a hard worker and has worked diligently, doing much work that many of us are not even aware of. We as the other elders certainly encourage Kendall to continue doing works for the congregation, and I’m confident he will. He has been and will be very valuable to the work of the Lord at Southside. We wish him and Debbie the best, and may God’s richest blessings continue with them.

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Report From Paul Coffman and his Work in Kenya
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“Due to Covid-19 Most of young stayed home. We had about 40 in attendance 3 were baptized and in studies. After service 26 stood up and were named as having obeyed the Gospel. My eyes filled with joy over many lost but now are found. What a great way to begin the week. One brother came in joy showing me his card where he

was apostle and reverend but has obeyed the Gospel. He shared he is now known as a child of Christ and his servant. Plans are made to go this week. God is indeed good.”

“Monday I taught a class of Christians. To build their knowledge in the Word. We had 26 in that class. Tuesday I had a class for non Christians mostly. Some 33 present we had 8 baptized into Christ and a new congregation has begun at Mature coc.”

“Wednesday through Friday we have a preacher’s class dealing with textual topics and expository Q & A session and lessons to mature the preachers. 1 day break. The newly born heard I was back teaching and desired to understand the gospel so much they traveled 3 hours to arrive and understand the Gospel of Christ.

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News (continued from back page)
involved. Most likely I will not be at the service this Sunday—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kennneth Amerson, Kenny Ferguson, 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 Marion Shurtleff.**