

NEWS

Paul Relph is experiencing fluid retention and having some difficulty breathing, which makes wearing a mask very difficult. He has an appointment with a doctor in the near future—**Royce Walker**, Dinah Arnold's brother, has been diagnosed with Covid-19. He is in Covid care, and is doing some better. They were able to give him anti-bodies. Prayers are requested—**Judy Hinson** continues her chemo treatments for cancer and we need to continue to be aware of her struggle—**James and June Johnson** are moving back home for a while. Covid 19 has caused too much isolation. (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

APPOINTMENTS FOR:

September 20, 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

Volume XXVII

September 13, 2020

Number 30

“And God Said...”

By Dee Bowman

A word is a wonderful thing. Words are often aptly defined as vehicles of thought. Technically, they are a speech sound which has meaning attached to it. So strong is the word attached to the thing it represents that the two cannot be separated. Some have called words “signs of ideas” -and so they are. They represent something. They are not actually that thing, but they represent it so closely you cannot think of the thing without using the sign that represents it.

Words don't really do much by themselves. They need help from other words. When we string a group of words together to express an idea we often refer to the result as a “train of thought.” Notice, if you will, the idea of expressing the thought is like a train expresses its load. An “express train,” I suppose you'd say.

Words are not the only form of communication, but they are the most efficient and accurate form of it. Written words, properly understood and used, are an accurate means of expressing an idea or thought. Spoken language is the most emotional and probably the most accurate means of communicating because it translates things to bright thoughts and expresses them from one mind to another.

God has always used language—what he says—to accomplish His plans and purposes. He spoke the worlds into existence with words. He sent Christ, who is called “The Word” that He might be understood by man (John 1:1-3, 18). The ability to communicate through spoken words is one of the ways we were created “in the image” of God.

After God had created him, men became very vain (Genesis 11:1-9). They sought glory for themselves. They wanted a name (11:4). The impiety of these insurrectionists caused them to desire to make a name-structure to reach all the way to heaven. Thus the tower of Babel. How did God treat their rebellion? He separated them by “confounding” their language. He mixed up their speech so they could no longer understand one another. The result was predictable.

There can be no commonality when there is no understanding, no fellowship where there is no comprehension, so they “left off the building.” No wonder. You can’t build with one another when you don’t understand one another.

Scripture states or implies in many places the role of communication in God’s plans. The Bible says, “God said, let there be light, and there was light.” He literally spoke the creation into existence. Jesus is called The Word because He was the very expression of God. God spoke to man in various ways, but “in these last days hath spoken to us by his Son...” (Heb. 11:2). In John 1:18, John says of Jesus “...the only begotten son who was in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him.”

II Timothy 3:16-17 speaks of Scripture being inspired of God.” The Greek word used here literally means “God breathed,” an obvious reference to the language factor involved in revelation.

Just as creation involved language, inspiration involved language. God’s eternal purpose involves language. It is His spoken word.

Ephesians 3:1-10 combines inspiration and revelation. Paul says he received by inspiration what he wrote down so that “when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ Jesus.” Our ability to perceive the will of God is accomplished by words—words which can be understood and acted upon.

In Romans chapter ten, Paul says, “But what does it say? The Word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe with your heart that God has raised him from the dead you will be saved.” Here, our salvation is connected to our confession—our statement of our belief. He continues, “for with the heart one believes to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” He further asks, “How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?”

In the Pentecost sermon in Acts 2, Peter said, “Ye men of Israel and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem, hear these words...” he then preached about Jesus. When they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts and said, “Men and brethren what shall we do?” Peter told them. Communicated information is involved

preaching the plan of God for salvation. (God spoke to the people in their own languages so they could understand).

In addition, consider that:

We are born again by the word (1 Peter 1:23).

We are cleansed by the word (Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 119:9)

We are saved by the word (1 Timothy 4:16; James 1:21)

We grow by the word (1 Peter 2:2; Jer. 15:16)

We are sanctified by the word (John 17:17)

We are kept by the word (Psalm 17:4)
If a man would be saved he must listen to what God has said.

Resuming More Services

Beginning this Sunday, September 13th, we will begin having Bible Classes for all ages at 9:45 am. Richard Montgomery will be teaching the auditorium class, and he will lead a study in personal evangelism. In addition, next Wednesday, September 16th, we will resume our Wednesday evening classes. The auditorium class will continue the study of the gospel of John taught by Drew.

We will not be having Sunday evening services until further notice. We will need to continue our diligence in wearing of masks and social distancing, as much as possible. We understand that those who have health risks may wish to continue not

assembling. But we encourage those who are healthy to seriously consider bringing your children and coming to class and worship. If sick, of course, stay home.

He Has Not Left That Open to Us

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

—C.S Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

News (continued from back page)

—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth 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.**