

NEWS

**June Johnson** will have surgery Wednesday at the local hospital to remove the rod from her leg. It has been giving her much pain recently and the doctor has decided to remove it——**Sue Lewis** has been diagnosed as having Bronchitis and she and Jimmy were not in our service Wednesday night——**Thomas Hockaday** had some dental work done Wednesday, and he was still bleeding when it came time to come to our service, so he was not with us——**Dale Rockett** is still waiting for his surgery August 17. Continue to pray that his surgery (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

**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.

**July 25, 2021**  
**Serving The Lord's Supper**  
**Sunday Morning and Evening**  
**Scripture Reading**  
Jimmy Lewis

**Song Leader**  
**Richard Montgomery**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PRAYER**  
**Sun. AM—Ron Traughber (Opening)**  
—William White (Closing)  
—Paul Relph (Opening)  
—Ken Amerson (Closing)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Announcements**  
  
**A.M.—Bob Arnold**  
**P.M.—Bob Arnold**  
**(call Ken Ferguson if unable to serve)**

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](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

Volume XXVIII July 25, 2021 Number 26

Drip Evangelism  
(By Mark White)

Some of us recoil from the idea that as Christians, we are responsible for sharing our faith. We don't mind public proclamations of the Gospel, and we really prefer them to the one-on-one, individual efforts of teaching the lost. Perhaps we remember the days of the "Big meetings" when a dozen or more converts were baptized into Christ. Maybe we wax nostalgic for those times when preaching did the job of converting the lost. Perhaps a lesson in modern farming techniques would help us see the need to be "personal" with evangelism.

In some arid lands, research in agriculture has led to a form of irrigation designed to save water. In contrast to irrigation ditches and the broadcasting of water in spray, each of which wastes water, the drip method is super-efficient. The method was pioneered in Israel to use with fruits and vegetables well-suited to its climate. At the base of each plant the precious water is dripped, so that every droplet is utilized, in this way, water is placed where it is needed, rather than "broadcast" to places where it is wasted or evaporated away.

Can't the church learn from this agricultural technique? After all, we are in the planting and watering business with the Gospel (1 Cor. 3:7-9). The church must return again to the "drip method" of evangelism. Too long we have depended merely upon the irrigation ditch of public Bible classes and the broadcasted spray of preachers who pump from the well of the Word. Certainly, this is still necessary and effective to some degree. It continues to have its important place in our work. But are we not sowing the

seed of the Gospel to its fullest potential with these methods alone. Aquila and *Priscilla's* method was “drip irrigation.” The Scriptures indicate that this method was very effective in helping Apollos to grow spiritually (Acts 18:24-26). The word was taken right to the root area of the plant in a personal way. It accomplished the growth and nourishment needed.

The drip method might make the spiritual desert around us blossom like a beautiful flower!

=====

**Mark 16:16**

(By L.A. Stauffer)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved is a simple straightforward message that every creature can understand. Only hardened hearts rendered insensitive by theological concepts can be blind or deaf to this command. A lesson from the hardness of the Jews against Jesus because of “Jewish theology” should be a warning to modern man not to allow theological systems to harden them against truth. Many today “see” but do not perceive and “hear” but do not understand what is said in this verse.

The apostles were to preach that those who “believe” and are “baptized” will be saved, meaning clearly that both faith and baptism are essential to salvation in Christ. Only the parsing of words and twisting of meanings can escape this simple fact. Few have problems with the idea that “believers” shall be saved, but to

many of the same folks baptism is not essential.

R.C.H. Lenski, a Lutheran commentator, captures the thought of the commission message: “Faith and baptism are combined here as the means of obtaining salvation. For one thing, faith and baptism always go together; the moment a man believes he will want and will have baptism. By believing he clings to the gospel, and part of that gospel is baptism. But believing is subjective, the act of baptism is objective. They go together in this way. Baptism cannot, therefore, be a mere sign of symbol that bestows nothing. If it were no more, it could not be so vitally connected with salvation. Baptism bestows, and the believing baptized person accepts and receives this great soteria [salvation] from the Savior. For anyone who comes to faith baptism is the great means of grace, that is, the channel by which forgiveness, life, and salvation are bestowed upon him. As he believes the word, so he will demand all that Word promises in baptism and thus the baptism act itself. He who claims to believe but refuses and rejects baptism most surely deceives himself about believing; his could be only a highly pathological faith” (*The Interpretation of St. Mark’s Gospel*, pp. 766, 767).

Some scholars appeal to this verse as a “spurious” passage to avoid the truth about baptism. However the textual problem may be solved, it is clear elsewhere in Scripture that “baptism” is for “the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38); that baptism is necessary to “wash away thy sins” (Acts

22:16); that baptism “doth now save us” (1 Peter 3:21); that out of baptism one arises to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4) in the experience that Jesus called the birth “of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5); that baptism puts one into Christ Jesus where he becomes a new creature (Galatians 3:26-27); 2 Cor. 5:17); and that baptism is into the Christ’s death (Rom. 6:3), where his blood was shed “for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

That baptism is into the death of Christ shows that it, as Lenski says above, “is the great means of grace, that is, the channel by which forgiveness, life, and salvation are bestowed upon him” (*Truth Commentaries Mark*, L.A. Stauffer, pp. 412-413)

=====

**Gospel Meeting**

**Brett Hogland** is the speaker in a meeting at the Church of Christ in Cooper, TX, this next week, **July 25-28, 2021, 7:00 weeknights.**

=====

***Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!***

Do you believe that God will affect your life in a way that will make you happy? Whether or not you are happy will be determined by what you are expecting from the Lord. God has not promised anyone that He will fulfill their wishes in a way that guarantees happiness.

The scriptures command: “*Rejoice in the Lord always*” (**Philippians 4:4**). Yes, it is a command. Regardless of our circumstances

(*always*), you are to rejoice. How, you wonder. Rejoice in the Lord. That means we are to find joy in what God has done for us. Remember that this letter was written to “*the saints in Christ Jesus in Philippi*” (**Philippians 1:1**). These are people who have been sanctified in and by the Lord, whose sins are forgiven, who have promise and hope of eternal life, who belong to the Lord and are secure in Him. They have great and many reasons to rejoice in the Lord.

The joy spoken of in Philippians is a joy that can only belong to those in Christ. Those in Christ who value what they have received from the Lord can and will *rejoice in the Lord always*. Some in the Lord worry too much about this world and this life. Rejoicing in the Lord does not come easy for them. However, the greater their focus on and appreciation of the Lord, the easier it is for them to rejoice.

Turn to the Lord and rejoice in Him always!  
—Don Bunting

=====

**News** (continued from back page) will be successful—**Betty Rust** continues under hospice care—**Bob Arnold** continues his battle with cancer and is receiving a new chemo. Pray that it will be successful—Remember **Dale Rockett, Bob Arnold, Ricky Davis, Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth and Beverly Amerson, Kenny Ferguson, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Betty Rust, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, and Catherine Moss**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust, and Marion Shurtleff**.