

## NEWS

**Relda Marshall** continues in Houston. The tumor on her pancreas was malignant. She began radiation and chemo (pill form) this past Thursday. She will have 10 days of those treatments. She will then come home for about 3 weeks before going back to Houston for surgery to remove the tumor. The good news is that they have not been able to find any cancer in any other places in her body—**James Johnson** fell on carport/driveway a week ago Thursday and broke his collar bone in two places. He has been in much pain since then, and (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 572-1219  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**Ron Burns** 577-9978  
**Ricky Davis** 572-9428  
**Ken Ferguson** 572-4135  
**Pat Marshall** 572-9347

### SERVICES:

#### Sunday

**Bible Study** 9:45 AM  
**Worship** 10:30 AM  
**Worship** 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

**Ladies Class** 10:00 AM  
**Bible Study** 7:00 PM

### PREACHERS:

**Ronald Stringer** 717-8603  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**March 4, 2012**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Zach Willeford

**Ken Ferguson**      **Ken Johnson**  
**Robby Gipson**      **Richard Tapparo**

##### Sunday Evening

**Ken Ferguson**      **Ken Johnson**  
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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Paul Chapman (Opening)

—James Johnson (Closing)

PM—Ron Burns (Opening)

—Thomas Hockaday (Closing)

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Bob Arnold

P.M.—Leon Goff

(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

815 S. Jefferson St.      Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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

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## Christians are Saved by Hope

By Leon Goff

Apparently most people *wish* to go to heaven after this life, but *hope* is much more than a *wish*. *Hope* is *desire* plus a confident *expectation* the desire will be realized (fulfilled). 1 Cor. 9:10 demonstrates this meaning of hope. The farmer plows and threshes in hope. From the preparation of the soil to the harvesting he desires and fully expects a successful crop. The churches of Macedonia even went beyond what Paul desired and expected them to do: "...this they did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:5).

**For what are we to hope and what is involved in this hope that saves us?** The context of Rom. 8:23-25 speaks of the value of suffering and "eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body" (v. 23). Obviously, this is not something we already have. We are to "eagerly wait for it with perseverance" (Vs. 24,25). The "redemption of our body" is directly connected with the resurrection of our bodies at the second coming of Christ and entering heaven (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:20-26). However, this hope involves and is based upon that which we already have in Christ.

**Christ is our Hope, the grounds or basis of our Hope!** "...the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope" (1 Tim. 1:1). Paul preached the mystery which had been revealed "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:26-28). Without Christ we are without hope and without God (Eph. 2:12). This is why Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). God and Christ loved us and demonstrated that love by Christ giving His life so we could be forgiven of our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). This is the "one hope" Paul writes of in Eph.

4:4. We cannot have this hope without accepting the other “ones” of Eph. 4:4-6. Therefore, this hope is more than a subjective feeling of our minds, but involves this person, Christ, our savior!

**This Hope is “the Hope of Righteousness” (Justification, Salvation).** “For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith” (Gal. 5:5). We as Christians already enjoy right standing (justification) with God through faith in Christ, and this is the foundation of our hope of heaven (Rom. 5:1-2; Tit. 2:11-14). Paul also calls it the “hope of salvation (1 Thess. 5:8), the hope of heaven based upon the salvation we have now and upon the fact that eternal life in heaven is “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet. 1:5; Tit. 3:7).

**This Hope is “the Hope of the Gospel” (Col. 1:23).** This saving hope is called the hope of the gospel because it is revealed in the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17). Without this gospel we would know nothing of salvation from sin or the salvation of heaven (Col. 1:5). The gospel is the “word of faith” (Rom. 10:8) preached by the inspired apostles and is the “one faith” that produces faith in our hearts (Rom. 10:17). Our faith (belief) in the gospel (the faith) is the support of our hope (Heb. 11:1). And our faith must be an obedient faith. Paul affirmed that Christ chose him to the “apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations

for His name. (Rom. 1:5; 16:25-26). Paul also reminded these Roman saints that they had been made free from sin when they had “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine” to which they had been delivered (Rom. 6:17-18). Included in this obedience was their baptism into the death of Christ (Rom. 6:3-7). In Gal. 3:26-29 Paul included baptism in justification by faith, not justification by works of law.

**Heaven is the Hope (the Goal) (1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).** This has already been emphasized in this article. But there are some who are looking for a reign of Christ here on earth and they do not believe that the reward is heaven itself. Jesus said, “great is your reward in heaven” (Matt. 5:12) and Heb. 10:19 says, “having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.” The “Holiest” is heaven (Heb. 8:1: 9:24). The premillennial doctrine of a thousand year reign of Christ on earth is a false hope. If Paul preached an earthly reign of the Messiah, why did the leaders of the Jews oppose Paul since that is what they were expecting? (Acts 26:6-7; 28:20).

**Hope is an Anchor of the Soul (Heb. 6:18-19).** Having this one true hope makes a difference in the kind of life we live. The apostle John wrote: “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3). If we really desire to go to heaven and we expect to go there, this should motivate us to deny “ungodliness and worldly lusts”

and “live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age” (Tit. 2:11-13). Think of the great example Paul and others left us in being willing to face death for their faith in Christ and this hope (Phil. 1:20-21).

I want to go to heaven when I leave this life, do you? I want to influence as many others to go as I can. But in order to reach the goal of heaven it will be on the Lord’s terms, not on ours. Do you have the desire to say with Paul, “there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness?” (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Do you want to hear Jesus say, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world? (Matt. 25:34). In order for that to happen we must believe and obey Christ and His gospel (the one Lord and one faith) and “Be faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10).

—*Biblical Insights*, January 2012

### Gospel Meetings!

**Russ Bowman** is the speaker in a Meeting beginning today and going through Friday evening (February 26—March 2), at the **Southside** church of Christ in **Sulphur Springs**. Services are at **7:00 weeknights**.

The church in **Bradley, AR** is having a different speaker meeting Wednesday through Sunday (**February 29 — March 4**). Ronald and I are speaking in

that meeting on Saturday, March 3.

### Our Gospel Meeting

Is coming up **April 22-27**. **Robert Harkrider** from Orlando, FL will be our speaker. He always does great preaching. He has conducted meetings here at Southside in the past. Robert grew up in Nacogdoches, TX. Let’s do our best to plan our schedules around those dates so we will be able to attend every service possible.

### Monthly Ladies Class

Will meet tomorrow night (February 27) at Mary Burns’ home at 6:00. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. I am confident that you will be happy when you attend.

**NEWS** (continued from back page) with the result of the stroke he had several years ago he is having great difficulty getting up and down and around. He finally saw a doctor last Monday and was told that they could do nothing but let the bone heal on its own—**Shirley Duncan** received good news on the results of the scan she had recently. The spots had not grown and they will check them again in a few months—**Ruby Bell** has had a bad week with her breathing this past week. On Friday she received a hospital bed so her head can be elevated to help with her breathing—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh**.