

**NEWS**

**Relda Marshall** has been receiving radiation and chemo treatment for more than a week at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Those are scheduled to end this Wednesday and she and Pat plan to be home next Friday or Saturday. Her surgery is about a month from now—**Buford Guthrie** is facing surgery to remove a tumor in his bladder in the near future. It is not yet known whether or not it is malignant—**Zach Willeford** is also going to having surgery soon on his right arm, which he recently injured—**Amanda Willeford** is also going to be (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 11, 2012**

**Serving The Lord's Supper  
Sunday Morning**

**Scripture: Thomas Hockaday**  
**Ken Ferguson**      **Ken Johnson**  
**Robby Gipson**      **Richard Tapparo**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Ken Ferguson**      **Ken Johnson**  
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**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—Ron Traughber (Opening)**  
    **—Pat Marshall (Closing)**  
**PM—James Johnson (Opening)**  
    **—Tom Davis (Closing)**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**A.M.—Bob Arnold**  
**P.M.—Leon Goff**  
  
**(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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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

Volume XIX

March 4, 2012

Number 10

### I Choose to Serve

By Chuck Durham

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990), the famous conductor of the New York Philharmonic, was once asked, "What is the most difficult instrument to play?" He replied, "Second Fiddle. I can find plenty of people who want to play first violin, but few, if any, who want to play second or third." We are such pompous, arrogant creatures, aren't we? Who of us cannot see the truth of Mr. Bernstein's comments?

#### A Classic Example

In the story of Esther, Haman, is the classic example of this haughty mind-set. He was so "full" of himself that he could not tolerate anyone not bowing before him. Enraged that Mordecai, a Jew, would not show obeisance to him, his conceit drove him into such rage that he sought not only to kill Mordecai, but also to wipe the whole Jewish race from the face of the earth. In a great twist of fate (providence), Haman fulfilled the Proverb "pride goes before the fall" (16:18). He gathered his family and friends together and boasted: "...of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king. Moreover Haman said, 'Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king'" (Esther 5:11-12). God has His way of knocking the props out from under any of us. On the very day of Haman's boasting, his body would swing from a gallows of his own making. All the wealth of

which he bragged passed into the hands of his inveterate enemies (to Esther, to be exact). And his family was cast upon the ash heap of history, never to rise again.

God has no use for pride. Who are we compared to His August Majesty? He has sworn to, “Resist the proud and give grace to the humble” (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6). He will do exactly what He says He will do. If we remain “prideful,” we too, will suffer Haman’s fate in the end.

## We Offend, Too

But it is not only “worldly” people who struggle with pride. Some of the worst offenders are those who claim Christ! James and John came to Jesus asking to sit on his right hand and on his left in His kingdom (Matt. 20:20-28). They sought status and power. The other ten were indignant toward the two brothers, but earlier they had “all” discussed who would be the greatest in the kingdom (Mark 9:34). They “all” wanted to carve out their share of the spoils. What is so disgusting about this scene is that “I” am no different than any of them. And neither are you. To our utter shame, and theirs, Jesus had just told them He was going to Jerusalem where He would be beaten, mocked, spit upon, and finally killed (9:30-32; 10:32-33). He would die for men to redeem them from their sin. No greater love has one ever shown than was demonstrated by Jesus—when we were His enemies, He died for us (Rom. 5:6-8).

The essence of Jesus’ life was to “serve” others (Mark 10:45). This was the focal point of His coming: to serve, not to be served. How utterly unlike the rulers of this world (i.e., Haman)! How utterly unlike His own disciples!

## Identifying This Self-Destructive Tendency

~ Do we keep reminding others of “who” we are? “I am an *elder* of this church.” “I am the *preacher*.” “My name is followed by PhD, or M.D., or vast amounts of money.”

~ Are we “too” comfortable with praise? Like Saul, do we look upon the David’s with jaundiced eye, who have slain their ten thousands over our thousands (1 Sam. 18:7-8)? Do we become angry and jealous, envious and spiteful because we have been outshone by another brother?

~ Do we feel threatened if someone dares to question us? As teachers, are we so “full” of ourselves as to think we “know” it all? Do we think we could not possibly be wrong about the meaning of this passage of Scripture? Do we retort with razor sharp tones and a bristling attitude? Is our name spelled “D-I-O-T-R-E-P-H-E-S”?

## How Do We Overcome?

First, we must call to mind that we

are “nothing” before God. I do not mean that we are “worth” nothing since our value to Him is greater than all the wealth of the world (Matt. 16:26). I mean that until we realize how we have shamed Him by our sins; until we reckon with how we have despised and rejected Him—we will not learn to be of “use” to Him. Humility does not come naturally to any of us. It must be learned. Peter says we must “clothe” ourselves with humility; we must “put it on” (1 Pet. 5:5). Jesus said, “Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart (Matt. 11:29). And this process takes time and plenty of hard knocks!

Second, we must remember what Jesus gave up to come to earth and become one of us! Have we an inkling of the grandeur of being God? Have we a clue as to the majesty and awe He possesses? Read the throne room scenes of Isaiah chapter 6 and Revelation chapter 4 to see but a glimpse. Then, there are the Mounts of Transfiguration; Carmel; Sinai; Zion—to name but a few—that should astound us beyond imagination. If we comprehended but a mere particle of His humility—His willingness to give up all the grandeur and majesty to enter human flesh—we would be utterly ashamed of our self-important righteousness. We would be overwhelmed at what He gave up to deliver us from the mess we made of ourselves in sin. And we would bow our heads in both shame and adoration for the Majesty that chose to serve instead of being served! Then, and only then, would we begin to learn what it

means to “serve and not to be served” as the mission of our lives.

“James and John coveted honour, power and comfortable security, while the whole career of Jesus was marked by sacrifice, service and suffering.” —John R.W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, p. 288

—*Biblical Insights*, January 2011

## Our Gospel Meeting

**Robert Harkrider** will be the speaker in our spring meeting **April 22-27**.

**NEWS** (continued from back page) checked out soon for a genetic heart problem—**James Johnson** continues to make progress following his fall in which he broke his collar bone. His pain is much better—**Bob Arnold’s Mother** had a heart attack this past Wednesday and is in a hospital in Tyler—**Dana Welch**, Phil Brown’s niece, had surgery for pancreatic cancer Thursday in Dallas—**R.J. Stevens** had bypass surgery at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas last Tuesday. He came through the surgery fine but he was having difficulty waking up because of the pain medication—Continue to remember **Pat** and **Deborah Brown** in their battles with cancer, and **Tammy Willeford** in her battle with cancer and other health problems—Remember our **Shut-ins**: *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh*.