

## NEWS

**Relda Marshall** was released to come home from Houston last weekend. The problem she had with the blocked bile duct has set her back some in her recovery, but overall she is still making good progress. They go back to Houston tomorrow for two doctors appointments Tuesday—**Austin Cody**, the Marshalls grandson and Lenelle Latimer's great-grandson, had his cranial surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN last Tuesday, and came through the surgery fine even though they had to do extensive surgery. They will stay in Nashville (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:

May 20, 2012

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Robby Gipson

**Andrew Arnold**      **Luke Arnold**  
**Ricky Davis**        **Tom Davis**

##### Sunday Evening

**Andrew Arnold**      **Luke Arnold**

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Bob Arnold** (Opening)

—**Bobby Burns** (Closing)

PM—**Ken Ferguson** (Opening)

—**Phil Brown** (Closing)

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Leon Goff**

P.M.—**Ken Johnson**

(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

(903) 572-2148

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

Volume XIX

May 13, 2012

Number 20

## People Of God

By Robert Turner

There are two classes of people in the world: those acceptable to God, and those not acceptable. Peter says of the acceptable, "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people..." (RV "a people for God's own possession") 1 Pet. 2:9) These "people of God" are those "called out of darkness into his marvelous light." (vs. 10)

The "call is that of the gospel of Christ (2 Thess. 2:14) by which all people are taught. (John 6:45) In one sense, this "call" is the dividing line between those acceptable to God, and those not acceptable; in that those who believe and obey God's call are acceptable, while all others are "in darkness" "without mercy". (Note with care: Col. 1:12-14; Acts 26:16-18; Acts 2:37-42)

In the first century these "called out" people—these "acceptable" with God—were called the CHURCH, i.e. the Greek word by which they were then designated, is now translated as "church". (Note Acts 11:2-26). In Antioch those who heard the preaching of Christ, and believed, turned to the Lord; these made up the CHURCH.) (Cf. Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1: 4:15) Thus, the N.T. teaches that the CHURCH (i.e., those who make up the church) are the people acceptable unto God; while all others (those outside the church) are not acceptable.

Yes, the church is important! Yes, church membership is essential! Those who are not part of the Lord's church are not a part of the people of

God! THESE SEEMINGLY EXTREME STATEMENTS ARE “RADICAL” ONLY TO THOSE WHO FAIL TO GRASP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCRIPTURAL DEFINITION OF “CHURCH” OR “PEOPLE OF GOD.”

I have not said you must “join my party” to be saved. I have not said that only members of a denomination called “Church of Christ” would be saved. But I must make it equally clear that no one is a member of the Lord’s church—that will be saved—who has not “obeyed from the heart” the unadulterated call of the gospel. (Study Rom. 6:16-18, 3-7; Acts 2:37-47)

Methodist sprinkling, Baptist voting, and “Church of Christ” communion are not gateways to heaven. We must learn to distinguish between being acceptable to a party of people, no matter what name they wear, and in being acceptable to God.

The “people of God” are likened unto a temple, in which God dwells. The foundation is Jesus Christ, and the walls are of lively stones—faithful Christians (1 Cor. 3:11,16-17; 1 Pet. 2:4-8) They are likened unto a kingdom of citizens, with Christ as King; (Col. 1:13) or a body of members, with Christ as Head (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:12-f.) The church belongs to Christ and congregations of Christians are called “churches of Christ” (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16) God’s people are even likened unto the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23-

f.) so it is easy to see why people should wear his name.

But the people of God wear the name of Christ because they are His people—they are not His people because they wear His name (Maybe this should be re-read—slowly!!)

—*Plain Talk*, Vol. 1, no. 12, p.4

=====

### Simple Truths re. Church

*Robert Turner*

There are hundreds of churches in our land, and most of them claim some relation to the church of the New Testament. Yet, oddly enough, there seems to be a reluctance to consider obvious truths set forth in the N.T. about that church. Let’s note a few.

THIS CHURCH BELONGS TO CHRIST. He said so, when He promised to build it. (Matt. 16:18) He purchased it with His own blood, i.e., its members occupy their position by virtue of His sacrifice on their behalf. (Acts 20:28) He gave Himself for it. (Eph. 5:25)

It is not MY church, and it is not YOUR church either, so we should never take liberties with another’s property. This one fact alone, remembered and respected, should keep us from many religious errors.

CHRIST IS HEAD OF HIS

CHURCH. His word is authority; all things relative to the church are at His feet. (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:13-20)

Its characteristics must, therefore, be Christ-determined. Questions must be Christ-answered; and problems must be Christ-solved. This clearly rules out synods, conferences, rule of majorities, tradition, etc., in determining matters of faith. If it is important enough to be an issue, it is important enough to let Christ settle it—i.e., there must be authority for our conclusion in the N.T.

CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE DOOR. Only those who come via Christ may enter this church. (Jn. 10:7-f; Jn. 14:6) It is Christ’s prerogative to say what one must do to be acceptable, and my feelings, what your mother said, and what thousands of others believe has nothing whatsoever to do with gaining entrance to Christ’s church.

Christ sent the Apostles out to bring people unto Him, and he told them to preach faith, repentance and baptism. (Matt. 28:19-f; Mk. 16:15-f; Lu. 24:46-f.) When Peter used the keys to Christ’s kingdom (Matt. 16:19) he told people to “repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins.” (Acts 2:38) Now if you have not gone through this door, you haven’t entered Christ’s church. It’s just that simple (Note Gal. 3:26-27)

CHRIST IS THE FINAL JUDGE.

Men may tell you that these matters are of no great importance, but Christ will make the final judgment, and he will do that on the basis of the words He has given us. (Jn. 12:48-50) We are to be doers of the law, not judges (Jas. 4:10-12) In setting these things before you, I am only doing what Christ would have me to do (2 Tim. 2:2) for I am interested in your soul’s salvation. “Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” (Gal 4:16) What I think about the matter is of little consequence; but Christ’s instructions are all-important. I want you to follow Him.

N.T. CHURCH IS CHURCH OF CHRIST. Is this such an odd conclusion? I do not mean it is MY church, I mean it is HIS church—the church that belongs to Christ. What possible objection could one have for calling it His church? Are you interested in being a member of the Lord’s church? —*Plain Talk*, Vol. 2, no. 7, p. 5

=====

**NEWS** (continued from back page) until after a doctors appointment a week from tomorrow—Robert Harkrider has emailed us an update on his wife, **Arline**, and reports she is doing well, but the doctors have decided they need to do more surgery because her tumor was too close to the margins of the previous surgery—It was good to see **Wanda Sikes** in our service Wednesday night—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*