

**NEWS**

**Relda Marshall** along with Pat went last Monday back to the Medical Center in Houston to have her bile duct cleaned out again. She had begun to jaundice again. They came home on Wednesday—**David Hill** has been taking radiation treatments for his cancer. We wish him well and let's all pray for him and for Paula and family—**Dana Welch**, Phyllis' daughter and Phil Brown's niece, has tumors on the outside of her intestines and is going to have chemo treatments—**Ronald Stringer** will his doctor tomorrow in Tyler (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:  
November 11, 2012**

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

**Scripture: Thomas Hockaday**  
**Bob Arnold**                      **Luke Arnold**  
**Kevin Kanaley**                **Austin Fulmer**

**Sunday Evening**

**Bob Arnold**                      **Luke Arnold**  
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**PRAYERS**

**Sun. AM—William White (Opening)**  
—James Johnson (Closing)  
**PM—Kenneth Amerson (Opening)**  
—Richard Tapparo (Closing)  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A.M.—Ken Ferguson**  
**P.M.—Kendall Johnson**

(notify 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

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Volume XIX

November 4, 2012

Number 45

### The Transforming Power of Worship

*By Paul Earnhart*

In the sixth chapter of his great prophetic book Isaiah records the soul-shaking vision of God which came to him in the year king Uzziah died (c.739 BC). It was not a time of worship which the prophet sought, but one which came to him, and he was never to be the same again. As for ourselves, we must seek by faith the vision of God's glory, power and grace which came unbidden to Isaiah. It is our destiny to seek Him (Acts 17:27), and to know Him (John 17:3), to worship him in spirit and truth (4:24).

The true worship of God is not reflexive or instinctual, it is a chosen and cultivated activity of the heart. It is an active reaching out of the mind, not a passive waiting for someone or something to effect an experience in us. Yet it is more than mere acts, and not simply a feeling. It is an attitude.

Isaiah did not seek his vision of the majestic and holy God, but he chose his attitude toward it and his response. In a similar way, we did not seek to know God, but He has confronted us with a vision of His glory in the grace and truth of His Son (John 1:14). If we will truly look and see God in Christ, we, too, like Isaiah, will be awestruck, challenged and transformed. Looking upon God in worship has power.

Isaiah's vision teaches us that worship gives us a sense of the surpassing holiness and majesty of the eternal God. Though it does not end

beyond expression, though their voices shake the very thresholds of the heavenly temple (Isaiah 6:3-4); Revelation 4:8). We need that sense of reverential awe that only an honest look upon the greatness of Jehovah will give us. Such worshipful reverence will move us to close our mouths and open our ears before Him. “The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him” (Habakkuk 2:20). God is surpassingly great whether we ever see Him as He is or not, but if we come to know Him in the beauty of His power and grace, we will worship Him! And we will listen to His word.

Not only does true worship help us to see God as He is, but it will help us to see ourselves as we really are. Isaiah’s immediate response to his heavenly vision was a profound sense of his own sinfulness (Isaiah 6:5). Living among mere men and content to compare ourselves with others like us, we can be lulled into a very self-satisfied estimate of our own moral and spiritual worth. But standing in the presence of an absolutely sinless and holy God quickly shatters such illusions. The white light of His perfect purity throws the darkness of our own souls into harsh relief. We are made to cry out like Peter, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8) and like the humbled publican, “God, be merciful unto me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:13). And like Isaiah, “I am undone,” I have no place here. It is in the power of worship to help us despise our sins and turn from them in loathing.

Worship is therefore always a time of confession.

Worship also enables us to see the person we can be, the person God wants us to be. In spite of our sins, God has a dream for us. He is righteous and holy, but He is also merciful. Immediately as Isaiah, in despair, confesses his sinfulness, that great majestic and holy God, whose appearance has terrified him, sends word that “thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin forgiven” (Isaiah 6:7). Worship is not just a time of confession and remorse, but a time of cleansing and forgiveness and new beginnings (1 John 1:7-9). Assured anew of God’s great forgiving grace, we take courage to try even harder to be what He wants us to be. There is nothing to “worship” that only leaves us with a “feeling” and does not move us to change our lives.

Finally, the vision of God in worship will make us see the need we have to serve God in His great purposes. Isaiah’s vision of the holy God was at first terrifying and devastating. He was stripped morally and spiritually naked. But now, forgiven and encouraged, he is ready to hear and respond to God’s call for service. “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” inquires the voice from the lofty throne of the universe. And the now chastened and cleansed and comforted Isaiah answers immediately, “Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

The thought that God would call the likes of us into the service of His great designs is almost unthinkable. The thought that He should call us rather than impress us into that service is humbling indeed. But those who have seen the splendor of His majestic holiness, those who have known in His holy presence the depth of their own sins, those who have received the blessing of His forgiving love—when the call comes from the throne of the universe for someone to help in saving this lost world, how can they not, with joyful anticipation, say, “Here am I, send me”?

—*Christianity Magazine*, 07/89.

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### Gospel Meeting

**Don Wright** is the speaker at Pleasant Run Rd. in **Lancaster** this week. This is where Pat Farish is the local preacher.

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### Today Matters

**Today.** 24 hours. 1440 minutes of fresh, unsoiled time to be used for great good or great harm. The choice is ours.

You may recognize that title from John Maxwell’s interesting and valuable book of the same name. But I wonder, if Christians took that title seriously, how would that play out in our daily lives?

**Today.** I will not be rendered useless by dwelling on yesterday’s mistakes or failures.

**Today.** I will spend time communicating with my Father in Heaven. Not just a passing word before consuming a meal, but true conversation in which I open my heart to the One who understands all.

**Today.** I will have absolutely no time for self-pity or gossip.

**Today.** I will speak to a friend or relative or co-worker about their greatest need—a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Today.** I will do something tangible to challenge my mind, strengthen my body and honor the stewardship of my finances.

**Today.** I will relegate self to second position and do something truly meaningful for someone else.

**Today.** By the grace of God, will count for something good.

by *Don Truex*

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**NEWS** (continued from back page) and hopes to learn the diagnosis of his leg problem. Continue to pray that it will be the best possible and that will be something that can be remedied—**Bettye Mitchell** continues in Pleasant Spring Nursing Home in Room 169. She has not been doing very well—**Betty Rust** was sick last Sunday and not in the services but was back with us Wednesday night—**Emily Latson** was sick Wednesday night and not in our service—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Bettye Mitchell, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*