

NEWS

**Daxon Willeford** was taken to a doctor in Dallas last week for the purpose of seeking help with his digestive problems. Tests were run and he will be going back in three months if not sooner—**Beverly Amerson** is making good progress from her neck surgery. She is wearing a neck brace for a few weeks and she says she can already realize some improvement in the problem she was having—**Paul Hix**, Alan’s father, had triple bypass surgery in Dallas last Monday and was doing fine at last word—**Luke Sinclair**, the Guthrie’s (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:**  
**July 14, 2013**

**Serving The Lord’s Supper**  
**Sunday Morning**  
**Scripture: Luke Arnold**  
**Kenneth Amerson Phil Brown**  
**Colton Fulmer Austin Fulmer**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Kenneth Amerson Phil Brown**  
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**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—James Johnson (Opening)**  
**—Ron Burns (Closing)**  
**PM—Richard Tapparo (Opening)**  
**—Charles Davis (Closing)**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**A.M.—Bob Arnold**  
**P.M.—Ken Ferguson**  
  
**(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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**(903) 572-2148**

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

**Volume XX** **July 7, 2013** **Number 27**

**The Partiality Problem**  
*By Jacob Hudgins*

*“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory” (James 2:1).*

We all have preferences. Mine include strawberries, Aggie football, and historical fiction. And we all have preferences with people—those with whom we connect more easily and prefer to be around. Yet James points out a problem that can easily proceed from those preferences—that we can treat people differently than others based on this kind of shallow reasoning. Why is showing partiality a problem?

Partiality divides. James draws a vivid picture: *“For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:2-4).* When we treat people differently according to our preferences, we “make distinctions among ourselves.” We separate people into those we prefer and those we do not. Rather than celebrating the fact that we are all God’s creation, we venerate some and denigrate others. We divide the world—or the family—or the church—into the haves and the have nots.

Partiality makes us judges. *“Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”* There is a ruth-

less judgment in James’ story. The poor man is unworthy of our attention and honor (did you see his clothes?) while the rich man deserves the best seat in the house (I wonder how much he would give!). In our better moments we know the folly and inaccuracy of such judgments, but partiality makes us shortsighted judges.

Partiality opposes love. James cites the law’s provision to love neighbor as self as the opposite of partiality (James 2:8). Treating people as lesser because of some mere external factor—money, personality, tattoos, their past, skin color, haircut—is antithetical to real love. “*He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen*” (1 John 4:20).

It is not wrong to prefer things, but when our preferences cause us to treat some people differently from other, we must search our hearts. Remember that all people are made in God’s image and therefore deserve our respect, love, and attention! —*The Bible Ways*, 6/25/13

**Are We Wandering Stars?**

Shooting stars are captivating, brilliant, and unique. They’re thrilling and romantic. Pinocchio even taught us that they’re magical. After all, “when you wish upon a star your dreams come true.”

But to one Biblical writer, they

weren’t so whimsical and innocent. Jude didn’t speak so highly about “shooting (or wandering) stars.”

Jude’s short New Testament book is very simple. The Christians he writes to are under attack by false teachers. Jude 4 says, “...*certain people have crept in unnoticed...ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*” Because of the danger, the goal of his letter was simple—expose the enemies who were threatening God’s people.

One way Jude describes the error of disobedient trouble-makers is by illustrating their behavior through nature. Jude 12-13 explains, “[the false teachers] *are hidden reefs...waterless clouds...fruitless trees...wild waves of the sea...*[and] **wandering stars...**”

For Christians living in the time of Jude’s writing, stars were the main source of direction and guidance. They were the 1st century version of TomToms, Garmins, and Google Maps. So when a traveler looked to the sky for direction, a shooting star offered zero guidance for travel.

Jude describes the false teachers as wandering stars. Their disobedience has caused them to be useless as spiritual guides and examples. Their relationship with God and obedience to God cannot be described as stable, unchanging, or unmoved. No one should look to their ex-

ample or follow their spiritual path.

**Are we wandering stars?**

Can non-believers look at our lives and take spiritual direction from our attitudes, words and behaviors? Can other Christians chart a path to maturity and obedience by looking at the kind of lives we live? Or are others misled and confused when they take their direction from our example?

Wandering stars are good for beauty, romance, and wishes (*I guess*). But they don’t give direction! Let’s not be Christians who prove themselves worthless and misleading through disobedience and sin. Instead, let’s be the kind of people who can say what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ.”

—Todd Banning, *The Bible Way*, 6/25/13.

**One Restored and Placed Membership**

**Randy Blackmon** made it known last Sunday morning that he wanted to receive God’s forgiveness and to be received as a member of the Southside church of Christ. Randy has been attending our services for a few weeks. His address is P.O. Box 1603, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456, and his telephone number is 903-563-3094.

We commend Randy for his desire to serve God and to be a part of our spiritual family here at Southside. We welcome you, Randy, and look forward to the fellowship with you in the coming weeks, months and years. Randy is a brother of Paula Hill and is also a cousin to Dinah Arnold and family.

**Ronald Stringer**

Is out of town on vacation this past week and this week. He is in Alabama this weekend with his parents. He plans to be back in Mt. Pleasant next Friday evening and will be preaching here next Sunday morning and evening!

**19th Annual Westside Youth Lectures in Irving, TX  
July 26 — 28**

Speakers are: **Shane Scott, Roger Shouse, Warren Berkley, Kenny Moorner, Rusty Miller and Mark Roberts.** See bulletin board for details.

**NEWS** (continued from back page)  
Great-grandson, had surgery at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas and went home from the hospital last Tuesday or Wednesday—Remember **Relda Marshall, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown Reed, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson and Ronald Stringer**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Dee Ellis, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.**