

NEWS

Brantley Moss, young son of Jeremy and Catherine, is going to be going through a series of tests to determine whether he has problems they are concerned about. Our prayers are requested on his behalf—**Dorothy Kyle** was not able to be in our services last Sunday or Wednesday, and **Charles** and she have both had the stomach virus this past week—**Curtis Scroggins** was sick last Sunday with allergy and upper respiratory problems, but he was back in our service Wednesday night—**Pat and Relda Marshall** will be traveling this afternoon to Houston for Relda's regular (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

PREACHER:

Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

October 20, 2013

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Charles Kyle
Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**
Curtis Scroggins **Alec Capel**

Sunday Evening

Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Ron Traughber (Opening)
—Ricky Davis (Closing)

PM—Andrew Arnold (Opening)

—Phil Brown (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Kendall Johnson

(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

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The Bible, Man's Origin, Purpose & Destiny

By Leon Goff

We, as Christians, need to know the ground upon which we stand. We need to be conscious of our happy position so that we have no need to be ashamed of believing in God and the Bible. Don't be swayed by those who make fun of us and misrepresent what we believe. In many instances they charge us with the very thing they are guilty of.

In Arts & Life section of the October 6, 2013 *Dallas Morning News* is an article about Dr. Richard Dawkins, who is described as "among the world's pre-eminent evolutionary biologist," and "Public Atheist, No. 1." The article quotes the following from a new book he has written: "the obsession with 'sin' and the Pauline belief that everybody is born in sin, inherited from Adam (whose embarrassing non-existence was unknown to St. Paul), is one of the very nastiest aspects of Christianity." So, you see that Dawkins opposes Christianity, in this case, not because of what Paul taught, but because of what a false religious system misrepresented Paul as teaching. Paul never taught that we are born in sin. In **Romans 5:12** Paul wrote: "*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death (spiritual death) spread to all men, **because all sinned***" (Emp. mine). Paul is saying that each person suffers condemnation (spiritual death) because of the guilt of his own sins. Yes, Adam was the first, he introduced sin into the world, but each of us becomes sinners when we sin. This agrees with the prophet Ezekiel when he wrote: "*The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son.*" **(18:20)**. I oppose the doctrine as much as Dr. Dawkins does. But I believe what Paul taught. Dawkins should also!

The Origin of Man. The Bible is the only book that tells us where we came from. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image....So God created man in His own image...” (Gen. 1:1,26-28).* *“God, who made the world and everything in it....And He has made from one blood every nation of men...” (Acts 17:24,28).*

We are made in God’s image in that we are intelligent, reasoning creatures of choice. The verses above teach that God, an intelligent being, created the life that we as humans have. Life is here, but life has never been proven to come from non-life (dead matter). The Bible gives the answer to the origin of the life we have. It came from the eternal, living, omnipotent, omniscient God!

Atheism starts with matter (without explaining where it came from, the Atheist is obligated to make his own dirt), but his first cause is not sufficient to explain the existence of life, man, morals and consciousness.

The Purpose of Man on Earth. Our mission here on earth is to serve and please God, our Creator. The apostle Paul on Mars Hill in the first century, said: *“so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:27-28).* Solo-

mon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 12:13:** *“Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is the whole duty of man.” “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” (Revelation 4:11).*

The Bible not only states the purpose for man’s existence, but it gives us the moral standard by which to live. The Bible tells us what good and evil are and how sin was introduced into the world (**Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12; Gal. 5:19-23**).

Atheism has no mission or purpose for man, has no moral standard to guide us, cannot tell what is right and wrong, and has no explanation for the origin of evil. Atheism has no lawgiver, therefore, no laws. If there is no law there can be no sin or evil. Is the Atheist willing to accept the consequences of his position? I don’t believe he is, especially if the evil is done against him. I am confident that he likes to be treated as God has commanded, *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

But his doctrine is “the survival of the fittest,” whatever you are big enough to do, do it, do your own thing.

The Destiny of Man. The Bible is the only source book that tells us what is going to happen to us after this life on earth. It tells us we will spend an eternity either in heaven or in hell (**Matt. 25:46**). The Bible teaches us how to prepare for

heaven and avoid hell. Some people want to believe in heaven but deny hell. But the Atheist has no more reason to believe in heaven as he does to believe in hell.

Atheism is a doctrine of doom, a doctrine of no hope. Why would an Atheist work for anything for the future? In the article referenced above, Dr. Dawkins is quoted: “There’s a tendency for people to think it would be intolerable if there were no afterlife, that there’s no meaning to the universe....The obvious response to that is, if that’s intolerable, well that’s tough. Just because it would be nice if there were meaning to the universe, that doesn’t mean there is.” It is difficult to understand how anyone can come to the conclusion that there is no purpose for the universe or for mankind!

Christians have a reason to be better fathers, mothers, children, rulers, business men, neighbors, friends, etc. We are responsible to a supreme authority and we have hope of a great reward. The doctrine of Atheism has no real reason to live a better life, and no promise of any reward beyond this life.

What if the Atheist is right, what will we as Christians have lost and to regret? Nothing! We will have the same end. But if the Atheist is wrong and God does exist and the Bible is His word to mankind, what will the Atheist have lost? Everything! He will spend eternity in hell! The Christians’ life is the best choice!

Our Fall Gospel Meeting!!!

Bubba Garner will be the speaker in our meeting, **November 3—8, 2013.** This begins just three weeks from today. Everyone of us who are members of this congregation needs to do all that we can for the success of this meeting. Brother Garner is an excellent and faithful gospel preacher. Let’s pray for him and for ourselves that we may glorify God!

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Gospel Meetings!

Virgil Faires is the speaker at the S. Main St. church in **Lindale, TX**, this week, **13-16, 7:00**, weeknights.

David Banning is the speaker at the Campbell Rd. church in **Garland, TX**, this week, **13-16, 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM** weekdays.

Brady Cook is the speaker at the **Grand Saline church, Oct. 17-20, 7:00** weeknights.

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NEWS (continued from back page) checkup and to do whatever procedures necessary. Pray for a good report——**Maurine Lee**, who is now living in Assisted Living in Dallas, recently fell and broke her shoulder——Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson and Ronald Stringer**——Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*