

## NEWS

**Randy Blackmon** is now at home and is doing well. He was in both of our services last Sunday and on Wednesday night. He expresses his appreciation for all of the visits, calls, cards and all the things done for him—**Judy Hinson** was not feeling well last Sunday but she was back with us Wednesday night—**Shirley Duncan** had an upper respiratory infection this past week and was not in our service Wednesday night—**Ron Burns** has a hair-line fracture in a small bone in his right foot as a result of an encounter with a cow (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:

**January 26, 2014**

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

Scripture: Thomas Hockaday  
**Zach Willeford**      **Bob Arnold**  
**Colton Fulmer**      **Stephen Hall**

#### Sunday Evening

**Zach Willeford**      **Bob Arnold**  
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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Ron Burns** (Opening)  
—**Willie Don Davis** (Closing)  
PM—**Kenneth Amerson** (Opening)  
—**William White** (Closing)  
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**  
P.M.—**Paul Chapman**

(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

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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

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Number 3

## How The New Testament Authorizes

By Leon Goff

The apostle Paul wrote in **Colossians 3:17**: “*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*” Doing something “*in the name of the Lord Jesus*” means doing what the Lord has authorized in the New Testament scriptures. It does not mean doing whatever we choose and claiming that we are doing it in the name of the Lord.

This means that we must be able to give book, chapter, and verse for what we believe and practice in religion. In contrast to this many believe that whatever the New Testament does not specifically condemn is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. This is the idea that the silence of the scriptures authorizes us to act. In both the Old and New Testaments God has commanded not to add to or take from His word (**Deut. 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19**). The apostle John wrote, “*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son*” (**2 John 9**). He made the same point in the negative and the positive. When people ask where the scriptures prohibit a belief or action they are asking the wrong question. John’s point is that we must ask where our belief or practice is found in the doctrine (teaching) of Christ.

### Rules of Interpretation

Many give lip service to believing and following the Bible, but ignore the principles of interpretation and application. Many people, including

some members of churches of Christ, question that there is a pattern for establishing Bible authority. One thing they say is that such would involve using human reasoning. But there is a difference between (1) man using his intelligence and God-given reasoning ability to understand what God says (**Eph. 3:4; 5:17**), and, (2) man using his reasoning ability to devise his own plans and commands (**Matt. 15:9**).

It seems to me that many believe they are to use different rules to understand the language of the Bible than they use in everyday communication. But the rules used to properly understand what God wants us to do are universal rules for understanding what we are authorized to do in all realms of life. They are not human rules because they are used in all communication of life. The rules originated with God. God created mankind and He created us with the ability to communicate. For example, what is a noun? Nouns are the names of persons, places and things. Who made persons, places and things. God did (**Gen. 1; Acts 17:24**). God made nouns. Man uses different letters and symbols in the different languages. But the principle of the noun is the same in all languages and the same is true with all the parts of speech.

How do we know what we are authorized to do in any relationship of life—home, business, government, etc? If you want me to do something, how are you

going to authorize me to do it, and how are you going to communicate that to me? (1) You will **command, state to me** what you want me to do. (2) You may **demonstrate to me, give me an example** of what you want me to do. (3) And what you command and demonstrate will **necessarily include or infer things** that will not be specifically mentioned. Now, tell me some other way you can communicate to me what you want me to do?

These principles of authority are principles we use every day without even thinking about them, and we have no trouble with them until we want to justify some religious belief or practice. Men, when you go to an auto parts store to buy a part for your auto and you specify to the clerk the part for your auto, but he brings you a part for another auto. When you ask why he did so would you be willing to accept his answer, “you didn’t tell me not to bring this part.” Do you say, “that would not be reasonable?” Well, it happens all the time in religious practices. Ladies, if you go to a meat market and ask for a specific piece of meat, but he brings you something else, would you accept it when he explains that you did not tell him not to bring the piece.

**Bible authority is established in the same way as authority in other fields.** The difference is in who is in authority? (1) Jesus told his apostles, “teaching them to observe all thing that I have **commanded you**” (**Matt. 28:20**). (2)

The apostle Paul wrote: “*The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*” (**Philippians 4:9**). Is he saying that God will be pleased with them if they follow his apostolic example? (3) In **Matthew 3:16**, in connection with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, Matthew wrote, “*Then Jesus, when He had been baptized came up immediately from the water...*” The passage does not specifically say he went down into the water. But by necessary implication it says it just as plainly as if he literally wrote it down. The point is not that we can infer anything we would like, but an inclusion that is inescapable is a real part of that which is authorized.

It is vitally important that we approach God’s word with the attitude that we sincerely desire to believe and obey what the Lord has **commanded** us, that which he has by **approved example** shown what pleases Him, and by things **necessarily included** in accomplishing that which is commanded and exemplified. We absolutely must not approach the scriptures rationalizing them trying to change their meaning to justify what we want to do. Changing the truth of God’s word to fit what we want to do is rebellion against God, not obedience.

The Bible is right. Nothing is right because I believe, practice and preach it. This is not about pleasing me or you, but about honoring and serving God.

## Jared Rogers Preaching!

Jared, Stacy and Maisy are with us again this morning. Jared will be preaching for us. We welcome them and look forward to another excellent lesson from Jared.

## Weekend Meeting!

Is scheduled for **March 7-9. Todd Banning and Marshall Reid** will be the speakers. It is not too early to make our plans to attend and to pray for this event. This meeting is scheduled later than usual to avoid conflicts with other events and because of the speakers schedules.

## NEWS (continued from back page)

Lynn Lovell continues to struggle with her arthritis issues—**Jeremy Moss** is improving some with regard to his Bell’s Palsy—**Tilda Allen**, Boots’ daughter and Dinah’s sister, has been in the local hospital this past week receiving blood and she went home Friday—**Courtney Wilkins**, Mike and Lynn Lovell’s daughter, is having some pregnancy problems—**Dana Lovell**, Mike’s sister-in-law, was reported to be in a coma this past week—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.**