

NEWS

Elizabeth Terry, Beverly Amerson's sister, had an eight hour back surgery Tuesday. She came through the surgery fine and the surgery was successful. She did have much discomfort and pain on Wednesday. Beverly went to be with her—Dana Lovell, Mike's sister-in-law, passed away on Wednesday. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mike and all the Lovell relatives—Dorothy Kyle has been having another weak episode like she has had in the past and she was not in our services last Sunday or Wednesday. Charles stayed (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:
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:
February 9, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper
Sunday Morning

Scripture: Paul Chapman
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns
Kevin Kanaley Randy Blackmon

Sunday Evening
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Phil Brown (Opening)
—Kenneth Amerson (Closing)
PM—Paul Chapman (Opening)
—Richard Tapparo (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Kendall Johnson

(notify 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

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. (Hwy 49) Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455
(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXI

February 2, 2014

Number 5

Two Kinds of Authority By Leon Goff

There are two kinds of authority, **General** and **Specific**. This is true in all relationships of life and in all authority contexts, including Bible authority.

Let's suppose that you buy a piece of property and have plans drawn up to build a six room house. You hire a contractor to build the house, you give him authority to build the six room house. The authority you give him is **specific** with regard to the number of rooms to be built in the house. Six rooms are specified in the plans. Now, let's suppose that a few weeks after the construction is begun and it gets far enough along that the framing work for the division of the rooms makes it obvious that seven rooms are being built into the house. You go to the contractor and ask why he is building seven rooms when the plans specify six rooms. And his reply is: "I have looked the plans over very carefully and I can't find anything in them that tells me not to build the seventh room." Would you think you might need a different contractor, especially if it is going to cost you more. Are you thinking that no contractor would say such a thing? True. However, many people say, "Where does the Bible say not to do it" when it comes to religious beliefs and practices.

But you get the contractor straightened out on the number of rooms authorized. You go back a few weeks later and check on the progress and find he has done no more work on the house. You ask him why. He replies, "After you corrected me on the number of rooms specified I went back and looked at the plans and I couldn't find anything specified about a hammer,

saw and nails. I decide I don't have authority to build the house since I can't build the house without these tools." By this time you would know that you need a different contractor. Everyone understands that the authority to build the house necessarily includes the use of the tools and equipment with which to build it. The tools and equipment come under **general** authority.

The same rules apply to Bible authority. Jesus commanded his apostles to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (**Mark 16:15**). This command contains both **specific** and **general** parts. It is **specific** authority concerning the message to be preached, **the gospel**. But the "Go" part of the command is **general** with regard to methods or ways of going. The New Testament demonstrates that all the methods of travel available in the first century were used. So walking, riding animals and vehicle such as chariots, sailing, etc., were used, not because the Lord specifically commanded them but because any of the ways of travel were authorized by the **general** command to "go."

In **Hebrews 10:24-25**, the command is for the people of the Lord to assemble to exhort one another and to stir one another up to love and good works. Other scriptures **specify** what we are to do when we assemble—sing, pray, teach, partake of the Lord's Supper, and give into the Lord's treasury. But the Lord or

his apostles do not specify the meeting place and in the New Testament we see churches meeting in a variety of places. In fact, in **John 4:19-24** Jesus makes it very clear that the place where we worship is not specified. So, some place is authorized by necessary inference because you cannot obey the command without a place of some kind.

In **Genesis 6** God commanded Noah "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood..." (**v.14**). God **specified the kind of wood—gopher**. God did not have to name all other woods and specifically prohibit them. He eliminated the need for that by simply specifying the wood he wanted. But God did not specify the tools. They were necessarily included in the command to build the ark.

Singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are authorized in New Testament worship (**1 Corinthians 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**). Singing is a **specific** kind of music. Playing a mechanical instrument is another kind of music. In the New Testament God **specified singing**. Do you ask, "Where does the New Testament say, 'you shall not play instruments in worship?'" Remember the example at the beginning of this article: was it in order for the contractor to ask, "where did the building plan say not to build the seventh room on the house?" Playing the instrument is the "seventh room" on the house of God's music.

God's Way—Still The Good Way!

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

The imagery is that of travelers who have lost their way. They stop at a place from which several paths diverge. They are encouraged to ask for the right way. It is an old established way, but it is a good way. If they follow that path they will reach their destination and can rest.

Through the prophet, God was encouraging Israel to ask, that is, inquire and rediscover His laws—the paths Israel had followed in times past. He proclaims His way is a good way. However, Israel must not only ask, but they must *walk therein*, or live by His laws. Following God's paths would bring *rest to their souls*.

It has been over two thousand years since Christ gave the world a New Covenant from God (Heb. 1:1,2). *WE* must:

**Ask for the old paths;
Walk therein.**

God's way is still the good way; it is the only way to find rest for the soul.

—Harold Hancock, *Good News*,
January 5, 2014

Jared Rogers Our New Preacher

Two weeks ago when Jared, Stacy and Maisy were with us the last time, Jared accepted our invitation to work with us as our local preacher. We are very happy to welcome them into our spiritual family here at Southside. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful relationship and work. They probably will not be moving here until summer, but the plan until then is for him to preach for us every other Sunday morning. They will be with us this morning. Welcome to the Rogers!

=====

Gospel Meeting!

Russ Bowman will be the speaker at Stallings Dr., **Nacogdoches** this week Monday through Thursday.

=====

Goffs in Florida

At the Florida College Lectures. Leon is speaking Wednesday morning.

=====

NEWS (continued from back page) with her Sunday night and Wednesday night—**Jeremy Moss** twisted his back at work this past week and had to miss work—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, 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, and Lelda Thompson**.