

NEWS

Yvonne White had a heart cath Wednesday and thankfully no blockage was found. She does have some heart rhythm issues—**Relda and Pat Marshall** went to Houston last Sunday afternoon for Relda's checkup and she received a good report and came home Wednesday night—**Melita Rivers** was sick last Sunday and was not in our services. Her daughter, Renee, came and took her back to North Carolina to get a medical evaluation—**Deborah Brown**, Phil and Pat's daughter, has had a return of her brain cancer. Chemo is not (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:

Jared Rogers 682-300-3602
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

March 2, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper Sunday Morning

Scripture: Andrew Arnold
Zach Willeford **Bob Arnold**
Colton Fulmer **Stephen Hall**

Sunday Evening
Zach Willeford **Bob Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Buford Guthrie (Opening)
—Phil Brown (Closing)
PM—Leon Goff (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Bob Arnold

(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
(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXI

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Number 8

You Are Invited to Our Weekend Meeting

March 7 — 9, 2014

Speakers: Todd Banning, of Beaumont, TX
Marshall Reid, of Bulverde, TX

Schedule: 7:00 PM Friday, March 7, Both Speak
7:00 PM Saturday, March 8, Both Speak
9:45 AM Sunday, March 9, One Speaks
10:30 AM Sunday, March 9, One Speaks
2:30 PM Sunday, March 9, Both Speak

(Especially for Young People, but all ages are invited)

Southside Church of Christ
1220 E. Ferguson Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, TX

What is Truth?

By Phillip C. Strong

I seriously doubt that Pilate meant the question he asked Jesus, shortly before surrendering Him to the Jews for crucifixion, to be anything other than rhetorical. But even if the Roman Governor was not really looking for a reply, it is a question that needs to be asked and answered.

Please carefully consider this statement: “While ‘truth’ can be **discerned** by men, and they can **decide** to follow or reject it, they never **determine** it—God does that.” This statement goes against the grain of modern religion. Men today meet in conventions, councils, and synods in efforts to “determine” rather than to “discern” truth—and in fact, have been doing so for hundreds of years. These efforts will always be futile for a number of important reasons we would do well to consider.

Truth is eternal, Isaiah 40:8. “*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*” While man, like *grass and flowers*, is a finite creature, the truth of God’s word remains firmly infinite throughout our generations. This means “truth” doesn’t change, evolve, or need updating to “keep up” with man. It is man that must conform to God’s word, not the other way around, Romans 12:2.

Truth is divine, John 14:6. Jesus

said He was “*the truth*.” Not only is he the embodiment of “truth” (John 1:14), He, as God, is the *Author* of it, John 8:31-32. Therefore, men neither **determine** nor **dictate** “truth,” they just **discern** it, or fail to do so, and **decide** to obey it, or fail to do so.

There are also a couple of conclusions implied from these things that we cannot escape.

Truth is not relative to time. It is not relative to time, or the occupants of any time period. God determines the “right” of righteousness and the “sin” of sinfulness. We can’t decide to “*call evil good, and good evil* (Isaiah 5:20) because we think the changes of time dictate such. God, in every generation, has demanded that man simply believe and obey Him. This was true of Noah, Abraham, Israel, and Peter, as well as Paul, and it is true for us also, James 2:14-26.

Truth is not relative to man’s understanding of it (or lack thereof). 2 Thessalonians 1:8 makes this clear when it states that “*retribution*” will be forthcoming to “*those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” The next verse adds that “*these* (the *unknowing* and the *disobedient* from the previous verse) *will pay the penalty of eternal destruction....*”

Just like in civil matters, ignorance of the laws of God does not excuse violation of them, cf. Acts 17:30. Also understand that two men do not “understand the truth differently.” One may “understand” and one may “misunderstand,” or both may “misunderstand,” but both do not “understand” it differently. This is so because truth is not relative to our understanding of it. It remains “truth” whether we understand and apply it correctly or not.

Truth is not relative to man’s acceptance of it (or lack thereof). The truth remains “the truth” whether men of any time period accept it or not. It doesn’t change because men of a certain time period, mindset, or morality reject and refuse to obey it. Therefore, efforts to *modernize* the truth of God’s word by making it “less offensive” to our current sensibilities, mindset, and morality, or to make it “more acceptable” to the masses, is fatally flawed. There is a simple reason for this—truth that is distorted (see Galatians 1:6-10) no longer saves. Note Jesus’ words of truth on this point, “*If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,*” John 8:31b-32.

Pilate asked the right question, “*What is truth?*” (John 18:38), even if he didn’t really expect or desire an answer. In fact, Jesus had already answered the question before it was asked. He had just said, “*My kingdom is not of this world,*” v.36. Since the kingdom of Christ is not *of this*

world, neither does *this world* determine “the truth” on which that kingdom stands. Thus, we humans neither *determine* nor *dictate* “truth.” We need to, instead, confine ourselves to **discerning** and **deciding** to obey the truth that God has already determined and dictated!

—Via Sulphur Springs Bulletin 1/12/14

Monthly Ladies Class

Begins Thursday, **March 6, 6:00 PM** at Jennifer Arnold’s house. The class will continue to meet the first Thursday of each month. The participants have the opportunity to host the class in their home. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend and benefit from the Bible study and the association. If you have questions see Jennifer Arnold.

NEWS (continued from back page) working and surgery is not in the plans so far—**Howard Shelby**, Beverly Amer-son’s brother, who has cancer, will have radiation treatments first followed by Chemo—**David Willeford**, Zach’s uncle, has cancer and is near death—**Danny Stewart**, Pat Marshall’s cousin, passed away in Longview. Our sincere sympathy is extended—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.**