

NEWS

Judy Hinson has learned that she has colon cancer. She will be meeting with her doctor to see what treatment options she has—**Lenelle Latimer** has been in the hospital in Pittsburg the last week. She has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and bronchitis and has been in serious condition—**Howard Shelby**, Beverly Amerson’s brother, has learned that in addition to having lung cancer he has a tumor in his brain—**Charles and Dorothy Kyle** were both sick last week and were not in the services Sunday or Wednesday (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:
Bob Arnold 563-2977
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 16, 2014**

**Serving The Lord’s Supper
Sunday Morning**

Scripture: Charles Kyle
Zach Willeford **Bob Arnold**
Colton Fulmer **Stephen Hall**

Sunday Evening
Zach Willeford **Bob Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Buford Guthrie** (Opening)
—**Richard Tapparo** (Closing)

PM—**Charles Davis** (Opening)
—**James Johnson** (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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Volume XXI

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Number 10

Giving God Our Best

By Marshall Reid

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament, but it was also the last of God’s revealed word for almost 400 years until John the Baptist burst upon the scene. In Malachi’s day, the people of Israel had returned from Babylonian captivity, had rebuilt Jerusalem and its walls, had restored the Temple and it worship, and were no longer worshiping idols. A tremendous restoration had taken place. But it wasn’t complete. Their hearts had not been fully restored. God sent one last prophet to the people to encourage them, remind them, and warn them of what they needed to correct.

In the first chapter, God brings a complaint to the people. “‘A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, “In what way have we despised Your name?” You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, “In what way have we defiled You?” By saying, “The table of the LORD is contemptible.” And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?’” (Malachi 1:6-8) And later on, God accuses them of robbing him by not bringing the tithes and offerings they were supposed to (Mal. 3:8).

Even though they were worshiping God, he wasn’t pleased. That’s because they weren’t giving their best. Rather, they were giving the worst. But they didn’t recognize it. They didn’t see anything wrong with what they were doing. Several times in Malachi, God accuses them of something and they deny it. I believe we can learn two lessons from this.

First, too often we don't see ourselves as God sees us. We think we're doing just fine. We think we're following God's commands. We think there's nothing wrong with our heart. All the while, God says we've got a long way to go. We see this illustrated in Revelation with the church at Laodicea. Jesus said to them, "Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..." They thought they were going great, but Jesus thought otherwise. And they weren't even close in their assessment of themselves.

How does that happen? It could be due to a wrong attitude towards sin. Maybe we've lived among sin so much, seen so much of it in the world, that it doesn't bother us anymore. When we sin, we're not ashamed. After all, nobody's perfect. Everybody makes mistakes. That type of thinking shows that we don't think of sin in the same way God thinks of it. Sin is awful. Sin is repulsive to God. Sin is an affront to the supremely holy Supreme Being. If sin isn't repulsive to us we're not going to be working diligently to rid it from our lives like we should. That in turn will lead to us viewing ourselves in a much more favorable light than God sees us. We need to be humbled. We need to be poor in spirit and mourn because of our sin. We need to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Secondly, God deserves our best. God has never given us his leftovers, so why should we give him our leftovers? He sent the best of heaven. He has given us the best of everything. It's amazing to think about how seemingly insignificant we are in the grand scale of the universe. Each of us is only one individual on an earth filled with 7 billion people. Earth is not the biggest planet in the solar system. Our Sun is not the biggest star in the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky way is not the biggest galaxy in the universe filled with 200+ billion galaxies. And yet God is very much mindful of each one of us. If God thinks so highly of us and has given the best for us, shouldn't we think highly of him? After all, there is no one bigger or greater than the God who made this vast universe. Shouldn't we give our best to our great God? When we think we don't need to be or have to be at Bible class or worship, we're not giving God the best. When we attend church services because we have to instead of because we want to, we're not giving our best. When we sing songs out of habit without paying attention to or meaning the words that we're singing, we're not giving our best. When we pray the same old prayer without much thought, we're not giving God the best. When we think about everything else except the sacrifice of Jesus while we partake of the Lord's Supper, we're not giving God our best. When we give just a small amount (if anything) when the plate is passed because we've spent our money on our own pleasures and pursuits in life,

we're not giving God our best. When we listen to the boring preacher drone on and wish he would hurry and get done rather than intently look with him into God's word to find an application for our lives, we're not giving God our best.

The problem with the Israelites was they didn't have hearts that were totally restored to God. We can find ourselves in the same situation. The world is tugging at our heart. Our own desires and interests distract us from giving God the best. We must realize that there is nothing as important as being passionate in our service to God. Let's look at this world and all the vain things therein through the same lens that God uses. Let's see sin for what it really is. Let's not let Satan use the world to draw us away from our God. Let's give him our best. Not just on Sundays and Wednesdays, but every day!

A Good Weekend

It has been an encouraging and rewarding week having Todd Banning and his wife, Laura, and Marshall Reid and family with us. We appreciate the good Bible lessons that are being brought. Todd and Marshall are fine young men who are dedicating their lives to the service of God in teaching and preaching the gospel. We appreciate the work they are doing with us this weekend and may God's richest blessings be upon them as they continue their work in the Lord's kingdom.

Something Lacking

James W. Adams

Professed Christians who find it impossible to stand for truth and righteousness under pressure and opposition remind us of a story we have read about an old Spartan. He happened upon the body of a dead man, and not realizing that he dealt with a corpse, he endeavored to make him stand upright. When he found that the body would fall each time he stood it up, he exclaimed: "Ah, it wants something inside!" The Christian who cannot stand in the face of opposition is undoubtedly "lacking something inside!"

—*Good News*, Timberland Dr., Lufkin, TX bulletin

Potluck Today!

Immediately following our service this morning there will be a potluck at Pilgrim Bank on South Jefferson by Walmart. Visitors are welcome. There will be plenty of food. We as individual Christians do this. It is not a part of the collective work of the church.

NEWS (continued from back page)
Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Howard Shelby, and Ronald Stringer**—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson.*