

NEWS

Kenneth Amerson is feeling better but he has an infected place on his leg that he received treatment for this past week and he thinks it is getting better—**Bob Arnold** had a jaundice problem. He had a stent installed in connection with his bile duct. They also stretched his esophagus. These procedures were done in Tyler Friday, and he came home afterward—**Peggy Bellamy** has contacted poison ivy—**Clayton Bellamy** is at home and doing reasonably well after spending some time in the hospital and therapy—**James Johnson** (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:
April 20, 2014**

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

Scripture: Ron Traugher
Ken Ferguson **Pat Marshall**
Ricky Davis **Kevin Kanaley**

Sunday Evening
Ken Ferguson **Pat Marshall**

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Charles Kyle (Opening)
—Thomas Hockaday (Closing)
PM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)
—Randy Blackmon (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Leon Goff
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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Assistant Manager

By Don Truex

Some audiences will never be pleased. The Pharisees hated what Jesus taught about sinners - that they are the objects of God's concern, mercy and grace. But they hated even more what He taught about money - that loving it makes you unworthy of the kingdom. They certainly didn't love sinners but they certainly did love money. And so Luke's commentary on the narrative we're about to consider is this. "Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard these things, and they derided Him" (LK 16:14). *But let's be clear: This parable is about more than money.*

Jesus masterfully weaves a story about an incompetent manager called to give an account by his employer. Knowing he was about to be fired, he summoned "every one" of his masters debtors and had them take pen in hand to reduce their debt. The purpose? To garner their gratitude when he was inevitably fired or, should that not prove effective, perhaps blackmail them given it was their handwriting that had altered their bill of debt. Instead of being incensed at his activity, his master appreciated and applauded his manager's shrewd calculations.

From this sorted lot of characters, Jesus instructs me to learn four lessons, that when applied, help me grow spiritually today and everyday.

I'm Motivated to Rise Above the "Sons of this World." This shrewd steward was brutally honest about his situation. "What shall I do," he asked. He didn't daydream about what might have been or once was. He didn't blame others or seek to rationalize or justify his prodigal ("wasteful" NKJV) ways. Instead, he made a candid assessment of his situation with a

view toward formulating a plan for the future.

I can learn from that. Honest self-examination (2 CR 13:5) and self-awareness are essential to making progress in my spiritual life. The Psalmist asked who could possibly stand acceptable before God. Among the many answers, perhaps most challenging is “he who...speaks the truth in his heart” (PS 15:1,2). That truth reminds me daily that I must fight against the tendency to Photoshop the blemishes and failures in my spiritual life.

Like the steward in the story, I want that evaluation to motivate me to be resourceful; to not simply accept the *status quo*, but to use what is at my disposal to make my future better than my present. And in doing that I want to think in maximums, not minimums. “He called *every one* of his master’s debtors.” The most detrimental, paralyzing attitude I will ever face is, “What’s the least I can do and get by?” That spirit is deadly to my spiritual life, my family life, my work life. We are called to do and be better. I want to deport myself today in such a way that it cannot be said that the world is better served by its servants than the Lord is by His.

I’m Motivated to Make Money a Highway, Not a Speed Bump. It is certainly true that “in the day of prosperity: I am to rejoice and be thankful (EC 7:14).

But by the same token, Jesus teaches me that how I use my prosperity in this life has a bearing on eternal life (LK 16:9). In essence He says, “Use your money and possessions in such a way as to not be an impediment to going to heaven.”

If I remember that today, I’ll not worship money or things. I never want the Lord to be able to use me as “Exhibit A” for one whose attitude about possessions make it easier for a “camel to pass through the eye of a needle” than for me to go to heaven.

If I remember that today, I’ll deal with my finances with integrity. That means that when I sign my name to a document or credit card receipt that says, “I promise to pay...” then I’ve made a vow, a promise, a pledge that puts my personal integrity at stake as well as my influence as a servant of God. I want to make sure that in every action today, my “yes” means “yes” and my “no” means “no” (MT 5:37).

I’m Motivated to Remember that I am God’s Steward. I talk easily about my time, my opportunities, my body, and my money, but in reality I own none of those. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (PS 24:1). I am but a steward of “the manifold grace of God” and “it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (JS 1:17; 2 CR 4:2).

One of the most compelling yet daunting statements in Scripture is simply this: “If you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?” (LK 16:12). During this probationary period, God has given me “life, breath, and all things” (AC 17:25). If I don’t appreciate them, if I don’t use them well, if I have no consciousness of using them to God’s glory, then why would I expect that God would give me the “true riches” of heaven where all is done continually to His glory?

I’m Motivated to Declare My Loyalty Every Day. I don’t have to be reminded when I wake up in the morning that I’m a husband and father. In many ways, those dual roles define who I am. But even more, my role as a Christ-follower overarches every aspect of my life and behavior. “No servant can serve two masters” though, honestly, we sometimes try. This simple story reminds me that every day I must pledge my allegiance to an everlasting kingdom that is “not of this world” and to an eternal King who, amazingly, knows my name and is willing to reward my feeble service to Him. If that doesn’t motivate me, inspire me, compel me to grow and serve today, then what possibly could?

—*Good News*, 2/23/14

OUR GOSPEL MEETING

Begins two weeks from today,

April 27 and continues through Wednesday, April 30. **Ronald and Johnny Stringer** will be the speakers. They will be speaking at the regular times on Sunday and then at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM Monday through Wednesday.

Directory Update

Christine Davis has moved from her home into Heritage Park Village, 1714 N. Edwards, Mt. Pleasant, TX, Room 402 and her new telephone number is 903-572-3290.

Prayers Requested

Randy Blackmon responded to the invitation last Sunday morning and asked for our prayers to encourage him deal with some of the issues he has. We appreciate Randy and his desire to serve and please God. His faithfulness in attendance and his enthusiasm is encouraging to us. Let’s remember Randy in our prayers.

NEWS (continued from back page) was not feeling well Wednesday night and was not in our service—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Howard Shelby, Ronald Stringer, and Boots Walker**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.**