

NEWS

Judy Hinson was back in our service last Sunday night for the first time in a while, following her cancer surgery several weeks ago. She will be going through chemo treatments — **Bob Arnold** came home Tuesday and will need to have some treatments—**Stephen Hall** has been sick with salmonella and staph infections recently and this explains his absence from the services—**Boots Walker** was not feeling well last Sunday and was not in our service—**Joyce Williams** was sick last Sunday and not in our services (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:
May 18, 2014**

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

Scripture: Kenneth Amerson
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns
Bobby Burns Richard Tapparo

Sunday Evening
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Leon Goff (Opening)
—William White (Closing)
PM—Phil Brown (Opening)
—Ricky Davis (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Pat Marshall
(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

May 11, 2014

Number 19

The Theme or Message of the Bible

By Bryan Gipson

The Old Testament (Genesis through Malachi)

Someone is coming!—that’s the message of the Old Testament. Prophecies of His coming are scattered throughout the Old Testament, starting in Genesis 3:15, after Adam and Eve sinned. A Key passage in the Old Testament is Genesis 12:3, where Abraham receives three promises. 1) His descendants will form a great nation (Israel). 2) This nation would be given a land (Canaan). 3) Through Abraham’s seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. This “seed,” or descendant, through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed, is Jesus—a fact made abundantly clear in the New Testament (see Galatians 3:16; Acts 3:24-26).

The First Four Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Christ has come!—that’s the message of these books. Galatians 4:4 says, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son...” These books tell the story of His birth, His life, His death and resurrection, and finally, His ascension back to heaven. These books also reveal the reason He came—to save us from our sins (Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28). If you’re new to the Bible, take one of these books and read it from beginning to end. Read with a humble heart, and you will be impressed with Jesus, impressed enough to devote your life to Him.

**The Remainder of the New Testament:
Acts through Revelation**

Christ is coming again!—that’s the message of the remaining books. “This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11, NASV). This is just one of many references to His second coming in these books. We need to read these books carefully, because they tell us how to be prepared for His second coming, and for the judgment that will follow (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10). Don’t miss the key point—He is coming again, and He will judge us by the words He has spoken (John 12:48; Romans 2:16).

Summing Up

He is coming; He has come; He is

coming again—that is the Bible in a nutshell. Why did He come, and why did He have to die on the cross? Because we are sinners (Romans 3:23), and the penalty for sin is death—eternal death (Romans 1:18; 6:23). God loved us too much to let that happen, so He sent His Son to stand in our place, to bear our sins, to take the punishment that we should have received (Isaiah 53:3-6; 1 Peter 2:24). He was qualified to do that because He was without sin, a “lamb without blemish” (1 Peter 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Now that He has fully paid the penalty for sin, those who trust in Him—those who submit to His conditions of salvation—can be completely forgiven of their sins (Romans 3:21-26), and receive the hope of eternal life. This is what God meant when He said to Abraham: Through your seed (Christ), all nations of the earth will be blessed.

—*Good News*, 3/16/14

“When That Which Is Perfect...”

By Jim McDonald

“...is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man I have put away childish things” (1 Cor. 13:10f)

No little discussion has transpired regarding “that which is perfect” in this reading. The importance of learning to what (or whom) the apostle refers is important because the cessation of tongues and prophecies are linked to the arrival of “that which is perfect.” There are two different positions which identify what “that which is perfect.” On one hand some understand the apostle to be referring to Christ and His second advent by the words “when that which is perfect is come.”

This school of thought, whether intentionally or unintentionally, allows the conclusion that spiritual gifts, including prophecies, wisdom, faith, and tongues to continue through the church age, ceasing only when Jesus comes to receive His bride unto Himself. A second position on “that which is perfect” is that the statement referred to complete, perfected revelation. The implication from this position is that when God completed His revelation to man, supernatural gifts ceased. Let us examine both views.

There is no argument that Christ is perfect. That word is used of His work and priesthood a number of times, particularly in

Hebrews (5:9). The question must be, does Paul refer to Christ with his statement “when that which is perfect?” Some argue that it is not, for were that so, the writer would have written “when he who is perfect is come” but advocates of the first position seek to defend their argument against that conclusion by offering counter claims. I believe the only real way to determine what the apostle alludes to is, as is true with almost all disputed passages, the setting and context of the statement.

First, the apostle speaks of something which is “in part;” then something which is “perfect.” These two items partake of the same nature; knowledge in part, knowledge which is complete. To regard Christ as the “perfect” is to alter the items of the same nature.

Moreover, the apostle’s two illustrations of things in part versus that which is perfect is designed to show that he was discussing two things of like nature. Consider his first “when I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child, now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things.” A child and a man are of like nature, but a child illustrates the immature state (things in part); a man stands for the mature state (that which is perfect). His second illustration “now we see through a mirror darkly, but then face to face” (1 Cor. 13:12). Again the apostle discusses two things of like nature: looking through a mirror darkly (things in part); the other is plain and clear (seeing face to face). The context of 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 bears out the fact that the apostle is contrasting imperfect knowledge (things in part) with perfect knowledge (that which is perfect). Christ is perfect, but it is not of Him Paul alludes when he wrote, “when that which is per-

fect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.”

Do we have “perfect knowledge” today? If we view that from what man has learned of God’s revelation the answer must be “No.” But, if by “perfect knowledge” we are considering that which God has provided for our knowledge, benefit and growth, the answer must be “Yes.” “...His divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). “Every scripture inspired of God is profitable...that the man of God may be perfect furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). “These things I have in a figure transferred unto myself and Apollos for your sakes that in us ye might learn not to go beyond that which is written (1 Cor. 4:6). “Whoso goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God...” (2 John 9).

In a nutshell, if spiritual gifts (knowledge, tongues, wisdom) exist today, the Bible is not perfect, not a complete revelation. But, if the Bible is all we need, then spiritual gifts have ceased. It is that simple.

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NEWS (continued from back page)
Randy Blackmon will have a checkup this week from his heart surgery—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.