

NEWS

Relda Marshall went to M.D. Anderson in Houston last Sunday afternoon for her regular checkup. She had the bile duct procedure done and had some blood work done. She will get the results on the blood work later. She received an excellent report. She and Pat came home Wednesday night—**Buford Guthrie** had six teeth extracted this past week and will have a partial put in when he heals. He is doing well—**Judy Hinson** had her second treatment for her cancer this past Thursday and so far she has done better than with her first one. She went back yesterday to have the pump taken out. (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:

June 1, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Andrew Arnold

Kenneth Amerson **Phil Brown**
Colton Fulmer **Austin Fulmer**

Sunday Evening

Kenneth Amerson **Phil Brown**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Zach Willeford** (Opening)

—**Ricky Davis** (Closing)

PM—**Tom Davis** (Opening)

—**William White** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**

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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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The Conversion of a Child of God

By Leon Goff

The book of Acts is often called a book of conversions. It does record a number of cases of those who first came to Christ in obedience to the gospel. Two of these are the 3000 on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), and the Samaritans of Acts 8. In both instances they (1) heard the preaching of the gospel (Acts 2:37; 8:6; Rom. 10:17), (2) they believed or accepted what was preached (Acts 2:41; 8:12), and they were baptized in order to have the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38,41; 8:12,13). The commission Jesus gave in Mark 16:15-16 was being accomplished. The pattern they followed on Pentecost and in Samaria was given by Jesus in that commission: (1) He commanded his apostles to preach the gospel, (2) then he said that those who believe, and are (3) baptized will be saved. Acts 2:47 says that those on Pentecost who did this were saved.

However, this inspired historical book (Acts), not only tells us how people were initially saved, but it also tells us how baptized believers (Christians, children of God) were forgiven when they sinned. The Bible clearly teaches that Christians do sin. John wrote to Christians: "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us*" (1 John 1:8,10).

One of the Samaritans who believed and was baptized was Simon, the one who previously had been a sorcerer (Acts 8:13). Keep in mind that the inspired scriptures (God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and inspired Luke) say Simon believed and was baptized. Now before you deny that he really

lieved and was baptized, remember who said he was. God said he was!

However, after Simon became a baptized believer, he committed a sin (Acts 8:18-24). He wanted to buy the power the apostles had. Phillip, the evangelist, could work miracles, but only the apostles had the power to lay hands on others to give them power to work miracles (8:18). This was what Simon wanted (Acts 8:19). His desire was a sin. Peter and John told him his heart was not right before God, that he was in the gall of bitterness and in slavery to iniquity (8:21,23). Does that sound like his sin had no effect upon his salvation? If it had no effect why did Peter and John tell him what to do to receive forgiveness?

What did Peter and John tell Simon (this baptized believer) to do to be forgiven of his sin? They answered, *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you”* (Acts 8:22). Have you ever thought about the fact that this is what the protestant denominational churches tell alien sinners (those first coming to Christ) to do to be saved? Does that not bother you that they have flip-flopped those conditions of pardon for the alien and the baptized believer? What was the first thing the Samaritans (including Simon) did when they heard Phillip preaching Christ? Answer: they believed and were baptized (Acts 8:12-13). When one of the Samaritans

(Simon) sinned after believing and being baptized, what was he told to do? Answer: Repent and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). Is this what you have been taught? Is this the order that is taught where you are a member? Do you ask, “What difference does it make?” It is the difference between what the Bible plainly says and what the doctrines of men teach. Do you believe man has the right to change God’s order to please himself?

The Southside church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant, TX, still teaches and follows the same order as Acts 8. It is not right simply because we believe and teach it. It is right because it is what the Bible says.

I invite you to turn to Acts 8 and read, then answer the question: “What was the first thing the Samaritans did when they heard Phillip preach Christ? Acts 8:13 says that *“when they believed....both men and women were baptized.”* Acts 8:13 says Simon also believed and was baptized. After this he committed a sin. What was he then told to do? *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you”* (Acts 8:22).

God’s forgiveness is inclusive of anyone who has enough faith to do what He commands. But if we refuse God’s terms then we exclude ourselves. God invites everyone, but he does not force us to accept. It is a matter of *“whosoever will.”*

WELL-L-L-L-L NOW THAT’S DIFFERENT

Have you ever tried to picture in your mind what would happen if some eccentric multi-millionaire philanthropist should announce in the local paper that one night during one of our meetings (he would say which night) he would give each person present one thousand dollars? Well, I have.

And in fancy’s vision I see a strange and motley crowd. The rich and the poor, the fat and the frail, republicans, democrats, scoffers and cynics, “God-is-deaders,” segregationists and integrationists, the famous and infamous. People who haven’t spoken to each other for years would sit side by side if necessary. The once-a-weekers and the once-in-a-whilers would be there. Grandpa would rub his “rhumatiz” leg with some goose grease and turpentine and he would be there. Folks who haven’t been there because they were afraid to drive at night would chance it; all the backsliders would suddenly warm up and take their place up where they could be seen. All the puny excuses and anemic alibis and other kinds of lies we have been telling ourselves and others about why we didn’t attend worship would disappear like dirt before “intensified Tide” or roaches before “Raid.”

We would have crowds that would make a democratic convention look like a

country picnic—that is until the money was passed out. We would look for a slump after that. What kind of “Christian” would do for money what he will not do for the sake of his soul?

—Luther Blackmon

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“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (Heb. 10:23-25)
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NEWS (continued from back page)
Howard Shelby was released from Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview Wednesday and hospice has been called in. He is living in Kilgore in his mobile home. Howard also made confession of his unfaithfulness and asked for God’s forgiveness—**Boots Walker** was not feeling well last Sunday morning and was not with us in our service—**Terri Shurtleff**, Jimmy’s wife and Marion’s daughter-in-law, is being treated for a very aggressive form of cancer—**Amy Willeford**, Zach’s sister in law, was to have labor induced yesterday. Prayers were requested. She has difficulty with her deliveries—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, 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.**