

NEWS

June Guthrie spent several days in the Charlton Hospital in Duncanville, TX recently with more than one medical problem, but she is now back at her mother's home in Duncanville doing much better—**Dorothy Kyle** has been having one of her weak spells and was not able to be in our services last Sunday and Wednesday—**Catherine Moss** has been sick for the last couple of weeks but was doing some better at last word—**Shirley Duncan** has been sick recently and not in our services but she is much better and this past week (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 717-3788
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

January 25, 2015

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Phil Brown

Luke Arnold **Andrew Arnold**
Tom Davis **Colton Fulmer**

Sunday Evening

Luke Arnold **Andrew Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Ron Burns (Opening)
—Ron Traughber (Closing)
PM—Randy Blackmon (Opening)
—Ken Ferguson (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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Improving Our Worship

By R.J. Stevens

The New Testament tells us what early Christians did in their worship and also the manner in which it was done. It is not up to man to invent ways to improve worship apart from the word of God. John 4:24 records, "*God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.*" If I practice something in worship for which there is no scriptural authority or if I have an attitude of bitterness in my heart when I worship, such is unacceptable before God (Matt. 5:23-24). Therefore, worshipping God acceptably involves doing what God says and doing it from a sincere heart.

God deserves my best. Obviously, as a disciple of the Lord, I can worship God at any time and in any place. However, as a Christian, I have the responsibility and privilege to assemble with fellow disciples. Even though there are times when we worship with others in an assembly, worship is still an individual matter. What can I do to improve my worship?

How can I improve my worship in song? Passages such as 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19, and Col. 3:16 teach us to sing with spirit, with understanding, with a melody in your heart and with a heart filled with grace. The command to sing involves my learning something about singing. If I am a song leader in song worship, I need to learn to lead singing to the best of my ability.

How can I improve my worship in partaking of the Lord's Supper? It is obvious that the early disciples partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week (Acts 2:42; 20:7). However, according to 1 Cor. 11:23-29, I must partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine in memory of Christ. I must discern the Lord's death till he comes again. Sometimes it

helps me in my discernment to read scriptures or lyrics to songs that take my mind back to the cross.

How can I improve my worship in teaching and hearing God's word?

As a preacher of truth, I can improve my worship in proclaiming the Word when I speak with all boldness (Acts 4:29). My worship in preaching will be more effective when I preach in the spirit of meekness and humility (Gal. 6:1-2). I must also speak with love in my heart; not only for my Lord, but also for the same people He loves (1 Cor. 13:1). Those who hear the gospel are also worshipping while listening. As a hearer, I should receive the message with all readiness of mind just like the Bereans (Acts 17:11). The worshipful hearer not only receives the Word but also embraces it (believes) and obeys.

How can I improve my worship in praying to God?

As one leading the prayer, I need to prepare myself. The lack of preparation in prayer often leads to wordy repetition. I need to pray loud enough that the congregation can hear the words and be able to say "Amen." The scripture teaches me to pray with spirit, understanding and faith. I need to be enthusiastic when I pray and mean every word that I say. On the other hand, as a listener to a public prayer, I need to concentrate on what is being said while having an attitude of prayer in my heart.

How can I improve my worship

in giving? The Bible teaches me to give on the first day of the week, as I have prospered, as I have purposed, and to give cheerfully, willingly and bountifully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7-8; 8:12; 9:5-7). I believe it is essential to learn the truth about giving as it is to learn the truth about the Lord's Supper on the first day of each week or about singing praises to God without instrumental music. To not give as God instructs will make my worship vain.

My worship needs to be improved if, in any way, it is according to the commandments of men rather than instruction from God. My worship needs to be improved when it is only from my mouth and not from my heart. Whatever we can do that is in harmony with God's expressed will—to worship according to truth and to worship from our hearts—needs to be put into practice. And remember—true worship glorifies our heavenly Father and edifies our brothers and sisters in Christ.

—via *Think On These Things*, Franklin Drive church, Texarkana AR.

The Lord Spoke To Me

Keith Sharp

At one time the word of God was found in human vessels, inspired men, the apostles and prophets of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:1; 4:6-7; Ephesians 3:1-5). The Holy spirit revealed to them God's thoughts and God's words (1 Corinthians

2:9-13). The apostles and prophets worked mighty signs, wonders, and miracles to confirm the divine message they brought (Mark 16:17-20; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4).

But these same apostles and prophets wrote down these inspired - God-breathed - words in books (Ephesians 3:1-5). These books were gathered together in one, the New Testament, which, along with the Old Testament compose the Scriptures, the writings from God commonly called the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17); 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Peter 3:14-16). Now the word of God is found in an inspired book, the Bible, which is completely sufficient to supply our spiritual needs (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

When someone claims, "God spoke to me," he is claiming the gift of prophecy. But that gift has ceased, and all divine truth for men has been revealed, confirmed and recorded in the Scriptures. If you're having a hard time making a difficult decision, look for guidance from the Scriptures and pray for wisdom to do what's best (James 1:5). But don't confuse your opinions or feelings for divine revelation. Divine truth doesn't come from a human mind; it's found in an inspired book. Your feelings are just your feelings, and all they prove is that you feel that way.

This reminds me of a true story Robert F. Turner used to tell. A woman came to him asking him to perform her wedding ceremony. Upon discussion he found she was unscripturally divorced. He said he couldn't perform the ceremony. She left but later returned and announced, "Brother Turner, God spoke to me and said it's OK, you can perform my wedding ceremony." Unfazed, he

inquired, "Well did He write it down for you?" "No," she replied. "Well," Brother Turner announced, "God spoke to me too. But He wrote it down for me." And he read to her Matthew 19:9. If God didn't write it down for you, He didn't speak to you.

Upcoming Events

Our **Weekend Meeting** for 2015 will be **February 13-15**. **Terry Slack**, from the Northwest church in Arlington, TX, and **Tyler Sams** from the Judson Road church in Longview, TX, will be our speakers.

Kris Emerson from Beaumont, TX will be the speaker in our spring meeting **April 19-24, 2015**. Kris is another outstanding young preacher.

NEWS (continued from back page) has been in Yorktown, Virginia at her granddaughter's graduation—**Lenelle Latimer** has been sick and she had a reaction to medication she was given—**Judy Hinson** has two more chemo treatments to go through and she is looking forward to feeling much better after she is through with those—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Ronald Stringer, Judy Hinson and Bob Arnold**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson**.