

NEWS

Charles Davis has been having tests done in Dallas this past week. His blood count is low and they need to know if he is losing blood or not making it. He has seen four doctors at least—**Lois Burnett**, Paula Hill’s and Randy Blackmon’s aunt and Dinah Arnold’s cousin has recently had back surgery and is now in rehab in Rockwall. Prayers are requested—**June Johnson** has had vertigo this past week and she and James were not in our service Wednesday night.

(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:
August 2, 2015**

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

Scripture: Duane McGough
Paul Chapman **Randy Blackmon**
Colton Fulmer **Jeron McGough**

Sunday Evening
Paul Chapman **Randy Blackmon**

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—**Leon Goff (Opening)**
—**Charles Kyle (Closing)**
PM—**Kenneth Amerson (Opening)**
—**Chris Stone (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**
P.M.—**Kendall Johnson**
(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
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Truth Is Absolute By Rickie Jenkins

Pilate’s question of Jesus, “What is truth?” is the norm of today in our society. We live in a relativistic world. “No” sometimes means “No,” maybe, possibly, but not certainly. “Yes” may mean “Yes, perhaps, unless I mean no.” And, we certainly do not know what the meaning of “Is” is. Therefore, truth is what we believe the truth is.

May I ask, “Are we, as human beings, really that dumb?” Do we really not know what “yes” and “no” mean? Are we really confused over right and wrong? Is truth really relative? We know better. Our problem ascertaining whether truth is absolute or relative is not intellectual but moral. We, as people, do not like to be told there are some things that are absolutely right and wrong. Why? Because we want to do what we want to do. We don’t want anyone telling us what we can or cannot do. God forbid that we should point out sin. If there really is such a thing as sin, then there really is such a thing as an absolute right and wrong, which means there is such a thing as an absolute standard: truth.

The problem of understanding absolute truth is not new to our day. Isaiah spoke of the same thing. “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isa. 5:20). Why did the people of Isaiah’s day confuse right and wrong? “Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isa. 5:21). That is the problem today as well. The problem is not “is truth absolute,” but whether we in our eyes see it as absolute. In our pride, we want to do other than what God commands, therefore, truth becomes relative. We allow our pride to determine what is right

and wrong, not God.

In order to correct this problem we need to understand truth is the standard by which all knowledge is ascertained whether it be in the field of law, science, medicine, or religion. Truth is the standard. When we go to the store to buy a pound of meat, we are confident it has been correctly weighed. What gives us that confidence? A standard of weights and measures: truth. We recognize the importance of truth in every area of our lives until it comes to religion.

Once we recognize truth as the standard for all knowledge, we must admit that absolute truth must have a source. Truth is absolute because it comes from a Sovereign God. Sovereign means above or superior to all others, chief, greatest, supreme. We can't get any higher on the scale of government than God. When we say God is sovereign, we include the idea that His authority is inherent because of who He is and what He has done. It is His by right of creation. That is what makes the Gentiles behavior so sad. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.... (Rom. 1:25). They exchanged the sovereign God and His authority for their own standard. What did they do? They committed the vilest acts known to man (Rom. 1:26-32). Do you see why admitting truth to be absolute is a moral problem not an intellectual problem? They did what they wanted to do, but they could not do that and admit there is truth. Why? To admit

there is truth is an admission there is a God, and by right of creation He has the right to tell me what to do. We cannot get more fundamental than thinking truth is absolute because it comes from a Sovereign God. Once we understand God is Creator that says something about His power, wisdom, greatness, excellence, kindness and majesty. Who am I? Nobody! What can I do against Him? Nothing! Who shall I go to for counsel? No one. But, look, He holds our very lives in His hand. He has the right to rule our lives. He gives absolute truth (Rom. 11:34-36). Truth is woven into the fabric of our universe. It is ordained and sustained by God. We can disregard truth, but we cannot destroy it; it is indestructible. When men change the image of an incorruptible God into the form of man we have a god we make in our image, that fits what we want to do. If our god is one we can carry in our pocket, then we are never wrong, are we? Truth is what we make it.

Furthermore, our Sovereign God has not left us to wonder what truth really is. He has revealed what He wants for us to please Him. Truth has been made known to man. However it takes a special kind of heart to see that truth is absolute. Not everyone will because not everyone wants to. Not only do we owe God a debt of gratitude and service, we must listen to Him. His word is truth (Jhn. 17:17). Scripture contains truth that God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Each word is from the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:11-13). No man

could have imagined the truth God revealed. Only our Sovereign God could have produced truth because He is truth (John 14:6). He produced the truth in such a manner that man can know the truth (John 7:17). It is able to set him free (Jhn. 8:32). Our problem is, "We have lied to ourselves, that we know the truth, until we have crippled our hope of learning the truth. Or, we have convinced ourselves (another lie) that there is no certain truth, so that even faith becomes a leap in the dark, an essential to avoid despair, or maybe truth (?) is treated subjectively, every man to himself. We know that truth in the material universe is not so vacillating: 2+2=4 to all men; God is different" (Plain Talk 16:3; May 1979).

Finally, truth, by it's very nature is singular. Truth is intolerant and exclusive. It is not subject to arbitration nor subjective appraisals. That which is truth is real and genuine. The truth is not some philosophical extraction which is reached by the reasoning of the human mind. Truth is not relative to time, change or feeling. Truth is without exception or exemption. It is not subject to recounts, no hanging or pregnant chads. It is not subject to a Presidential veto, congressional approval or a ruling by the Supreme Court. It is the standard by which all else is measured. It is objective. God has revealed truth. Our challenge is to search and find it.

—Focus Online, 7/15/15

Gospel Meeting in Cooper, TX

Max Dawson and Ben Lee from Beaumont, TX, are the speakers in a meeting in Cooper beginning **today, July 26 through Friday July 31**, services Monday through Friday at **7:30 PM**. The theme is *"Things You Need to Know About Jesus."*

Rice Road Special Topics

H.E. "Buddy" Payne is the speaker in this series on evidences for believing in God and the Bible **July 31 — August 2, Friday through Sunday**, at the **Rice Road church in Tyler**. Services will be at 7:00 on Friday evening, 1:00 and 2:00 PM on Saturday. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Westside Youth Lectures

Will be **Friday and Saturday, July 31—August 1, 7:00 PM Friday and 1:00 PM Saturday** at the Westside church in Irving. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

NEWS (continued from back page)

—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, and Judy Hinson**—
—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*