

**NEWS**

**Dorothy Kyle** has been having one of her times of not feeling well and was not with us in the Services last Sunday or Wednesday—**Mollee Ferrell** began to have seizures last weekend and was taken to Tyler to the hospital. She is doing better—**Ronald Rust**, Betty’s son and Karen Ferguson’s brother, has been diagnosed with three arteries in his neck 100% blocked and one artery 90% blocked. Surgery is scheduled tomorrow at the Longview Regional Hospital. Prayers are requested on his behalf and for the family. (continued on page 3)

**ELDERS:**  
**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

**DEACONS:**  
**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:  
September 27, 2015**

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

**Scripture: Ron Traugher**  
**Alec Capel** Zach Willeford  
**Stephen Hall** Chris Stone

**Sunday Evening**  
**Alec Capel** Zach Willeford  
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**PRAYERS**

**Sun. AM—Ken Ferguson (Opening)**  
**—Kenneth Amerson (Closing)**  
**PM—Kendall Johnson (Opening)**  
**—Tom Davis (Closing)**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A.M.—Paul Chapman**  
**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  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

# Southside Church of Christ

## Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455  
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### Legalizing Sin By Dennis Abernathy

The moral fabric of our culture is coming apart at the seams. With the legalization of same-sex marriage and every kind of sexual perversion imaginable clamoring for the same, along with the legalization of recreational marijuana in some states and the legalization of all drugs well on the way, such is indicative of the country that is rushing toward losing its moral ground. When these practices are coupled with the wide-spread acceptance, legalization, and practice of abortion, gambling, the alcohol epidemic, and in some cases the legalization of prostitution, the moral framework is swiftly being desensitized and eroded. Our founders who sought, fought, and died to form this country would be aghast at the liberal mindset that views the Constitution as a “living document” rather than a set standard. These same people who used to yell that “You can’t legislate morals” are doing exactly that. The only problem with that is that when they finish there won’t be any morals!

Religion is not free from blame for this fanciful conundrum because of its capitulation and compromise with the immoral and politically correct thinking that is polluting our nation. Religion itself has been polluted and is becoming next to useless insofar as godliness is concerned. Many see nothing wrong with the above practices, especially when they have been made legal. The cry is: “If we can get legislation passed and get laws on the books then these things are perfectly acceptable to engage in.” Thus, “legal becomes license!” and man’s law dismisses and supersedes God’s law, and under the banner of tolerance, love, and no discrimination, man’s arrogance knows no bounds!

Man can legalize every sin he wants to if he so chooses, but it won’t

change sin into being acceptable to God, and after all, it is to Him that we all will have to answer. People can deny and ridicule the Son of God and His Word if they so choose, “But God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11). All of the legislation in the universe cannot alter that truth and will be of no avail “When we all appear before” His judgment seat “that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

When the Supreme Court pronounced same-sex marriage legal, we continually heard: “LOVE WON!” But, in actuality, SIN WON! We are told: “The Court is on the right side of history. President Obama called the Supreme Court’s decision “A victory for America that has made our union a little more perfect.” He then lit the White House in Rainbow colors in celebration of the ruling. It is strange and sad that one can honor the symbol of the rainbow in such a disobedient and dishonorable way and in the face of the very One who placed the rainbow in the sky!

Psalm 94:20 says: “Shall the throne of iniquity (wicked rulers) have

fellowship with thee, which frames mischief by a law (statute, decree)? The imagery depicts wickedness as having been put upon “a throne,” given honor, and provided a platform from which to exert its destructive influence. Will God approve? No! His holiness will not be compromised and He will not approve of a degenerate people dedicated to evil. He enters into no alliance with unjust authority and He gives no sanction to unrighteous legislation. He cannot and will not have fellowship with wickedness (1 Jn. 1:5-6), and neither should we. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them” (Eph. 5:11). So, will God approve of any law that legalizes and advocates a sinful way of life? No He will not! The godly person stands with God, recognizing that when human laws conflict with the laws of God, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). We must be people of unflinching courage because “God has not given us a spirit of fear (timidity), but of power and of love, and of a sound mind (self-discipline)” (2 Tim. 1:7). We must also be people of principle, and the ruling principle is that in all circumstances, obedience to God must come first. Our question is not, will this action or position be safe or politically correct, but is it what God wants me to teach and do? (Col. 3:17).

John R.W. Stott’s comments are appropriate here: “Christians are called to be conscientious citizens and generally

speaking to submit to human authorities. But if the authority concerned misuses its God-given power to command what He forbids or forbid what He commands, then the Christian’s duty is to disobey the human authority in order to obey God’s.”

Be forewarned, that when sin is legalized, the more the righteous will be ridiculed, sneered at, and hated, and outright persecuted. Psalm 94:21 says: “They gather themselves together against the soul (life) of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood (to death). Thus, the Lord’s people finds itself in a day and time when the majority “...call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (Isa. 5:20). Many today are enthusiastic in their wickedness and are all too eager to put down, criticize, slander, and make false accusations against Christians because it appears to be the popular thing to do. But understand this one thing: “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord” (Prov. 17:15).

Lord give us courage to always be willing to take a stand against those things which, even though they have been legalized, yet are still sinful in God’s sight.

—*Good News* 8/16/15

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**Our Gospel Meeting**  
**October 25 — 30, 2015**  
**Wilson Adams, Speaker**

## **Gospel Meeting**

**Tyrone Spencer** is the speaker at the Southside church in **Sulphur Springs** this week, Sept. 20—23, 7:00 PM weeknights.

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**“One of The Days...”**

*(Shane Carrington)*

I’m going to eat right and exercise ... one of these days.

I’m going to work hard to provide for myself and my family ... one of these days.

I’m going to be compassionate to the needy ... one of these days.

I’m going to treat my mate with love and respect ... one of these days.

I’m going to set a godly example for my children ... one of these days.

I’m going to be active in the local church ... one of these days.

I’m going to forgive that person who sinned against me ... one of these days.

I’m going to repent of my sins and get back to serving God ... one of these days.

I’m going to obey the gospel ... one of these days.

Hmmm. I wonder if “one of these days” will ever come around? Perhaps I better not wait, for tomorrow may be too late.

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**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.*