

**NEWS**

- **Relda Marshall** underwent a successful surgery to address her strangulated hernia. She has a few more doctors appointments in Houston before possibly being able to come home on Wednesday. She will have to stop her chemotherapy treatments for the next 4-6 weeks.
  - **Alma Goff** is scheduled to have surgery to remove the tumor in her head on Wednesday April 19th.
  - **Phil Brown** continues to struggle with his breathing.
- (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** 5:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
**Ladies Class** 10:00 AM  
**Bible Study** 7:00 PM

**PREACHERS:**  
**Jared Rogers** 682-300-3602  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

**ASSIGNMENTS FOR:**  
**April 16, 2017**

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

**Scripture:** Richard Tapparo  
**Luke Arnold** **Andrew Arnold**  
**Bobby Burns** **Chris Hill**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Luke Arnold** **Andrew Arnold**  
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**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—Paul Chapman** (Opening)  
—Charles Davis (Closing)  
**PM—Alec Capel** (Opening)  
—Kendall Johnson (Closing)  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**A.M.—Leon Goff**  
**P.M.—Zach Willeford**  
  
(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**  
**(903) 572-2148**

**Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)**

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**April 9, 2017**

**Number 15**

## “Tasting the Heavenly Gift”

*By: Charles Willis*

*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come” (Hebrews 6:4–5).*

Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3 both speak of being “baptized into Christ.” 1 Timothy 3:7 speaks of those “outside the church.” It is clear that baptism is the pivot point at which a person is forgiven (Acts 2:38), becomes a child of God, and is added by God to the church (Acts 2:47). Three phrases are used in Hebrews 6:4 to describe a person who has entered a ‘saved state’ before God.

### Tasting The Heavenly Gift

The taste of the heavenly gift only comes to those who have been “enlightened.” When we learn the truth of God regarding sin and salvation, we respond in repentance and obedience. God promises to forgive (1 John 1:9). Peter says we “have tasted the kindness of the Lord” (1 Peter 2:3). Paul says we “have come to know God, or rather to be known by God...” (Galatians 4:9). All of these phrases are describing the entrance into the Kingdom.

The gift of salvation is spoken of in several passages, and the “gift” is not exactly the same in each passage, but the overall understanding of our salvation is certainly

intended. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water” ( John 4:10). Paul states plainly “the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23), and “by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Thayer writes that “taste” means “perceive the flavor of, partake of, enjoy” (G1089). Some would argue that a person can taste the heavenly gift without being in a saved state. This totally disagrees with the language and the meaning in the context in which it used. To taste the heavenly gift is to enjoy the gift. The grace of God is extended, sin is forgiven, and we rejoice in our salvation. We have tasted the heavenly gift.

**Partakers Of The Holy Spirit**  
“Partaker” (Hebrews 6:4) means “sharer...partner” (Thayer). This depicts our having received forgiveness and the spiritual blessings which are “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (Galatians 4:6). “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God swells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16). In similar language,

Peter says God “has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

**Tasted The Good Word Of God And The Powers Of The Age To Come**  
Those who have “tasted” the Word [“perceive the flavor of, partake of, enjoy” (Thayer)], are those who have received the word. They have accepted, adopted, and applied the word to themselves. Jesus describes it this way, “the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy” (Matthew 13:20). Paul declares that “the gospel is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Salvation is the “powers of the age to come”. Peter affirms, “you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God” (1 Peter 1:23).

**Conclusion**  
All of the phrases in Hebrews 6:4–5 describe our salvation. Now hear it with the admonition which follows it. “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the

powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame” (Hebrews 6:4–7). “Then have fallen away” (after enjoying God’s grace in forgiveness) indicates we can lose our eternal home if we are not faithful. The impossibility of repentance will remain as long as we continue in sin. Only when we stop crucifying the Son (by our sin, in our rebellion against God), will God be willing to forgive us again. “If we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:26–27).

The taste of the heavenly gift causes joy! To know we are saved is of great comfort. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

New Caney, TX (4/2/17)

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**Our Gospel Meeting**

**Rickie Jenkins** will be the speaker out our Gospel Meeting. It will be held April 23-28. Let’s make our plans to attend each service and invite others.

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**Area Gospel Meetings**  
**Russ Bowman** will be at the **Southside** church in Sulphur Springs April 9-12.

**Benjamin Lee** will be at the **Southside** church in Jacksonville April 9-12.

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**Psalm 3:2-6**  
2 Many are saying of my soul,  
“There is no deliverance for him in God.”  
3 But You, O Lord, are a shield about me,  
My glory, and the One who lifts my head.  
4 I was crying to the Lord with my voice,  
And He answered me from His holy mountain.  
5 I lay down and slept;  
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.  
6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people  
Who have set themselves against me round about.

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- NEWS** (continued from back page)
- **Vicki Stevens**, the wife of **Tim Stevens**, is undergoing treatment for cancer.
  - Continue to remember **Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, William White, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Charles Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Natalie McElroy.**
  - Remember our **Shut-ins:** *James Johnson, Maurine Lee, Lelda Thompson, Vivian Stroman and Wanda Sikes.*