

The REMINDER

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

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EFFORT AND EXAMPLE

"And all these, having gained approval through their faith... (Heb. 11:39). The heroes of Hebrews 11 were all men and women of action, but the action was prompted by their trust in God. Imagine the work involved in building an ark, or the trust involved in aiding the Israelite spies in Jericho. The Hebrew writer goes on to tell us that our "prize" (forgiveness in Christ) was greater in the present than these people received in their lifetime. They are held up to us as worthy, and are recorded as "witnesses" in chapter 12. You, too, can be a person of faith to be looked up to by this and succeeding generations.

Most assuredly a Christian must exert a great deal of effort. It is an effort to get up on Sunday morning and come to church, or to come back on Sunday night, or to get there Wednesday night after a long and difficult day at work. It is an effort to go visit someone who needs encouragement. It is an effort to pick up the phone, call a fellow Christian who may be depressed, and think of the right things to say. It is an effort to study. It is an effort to help someone in need.

But isn't that what being a Christian is all about? It's not just about "getting saved." Exerting effort. Behaving like the Christ did. Not only that, but exerting that extra effort - and doing it when we don't feel like it, when we had rather stay home. It's difficult to pull together when we almost don't care. Life can be exhausting, but most of us can do whatever we plan and really want to do. Paul told the Romans to "be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality" (Rom. 12:10-13).

It is only by exerting effort, and extra effort, that one will ever be the example that he or she should be as a Christian. Paul told the young Timothy to "show yourself an example to those who believe." Wouldn't it be worth the inconvenience and extra effort to be an example to our neighbors, our children, loved ones, fellow workers and strangers? Will we ever achieve the goal if we don't? Will the church in Bellaire ever grow in spirit if we don't?

Instead of asking yourself, "What must I do?" ask yourself, "How much can I do?" Ask yourself, "If everyone did no more than I do, what condition would this church be in?" Paul also told Timothy to be "diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed." In Hebrews, the writer admonished Christians to "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking your own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Isn't it interesting that they needed the same exhortation that we do today.

Exert that extra effort! Be an example!

Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Jack - "The Nature of Faith"
PM Worship - Steve - New Song Service

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman Billie Glitsch and Don Hurd.**

NEWS AND NOTES: We've had several out of services recently "minor" ailments. Terry Walker was out last Sunday and Wed., either with flu or respiratory difficulty. Wendy's family missed Wed. with something similar. Continue to pray for Anna. She's still in pain, and frustrated that something can't be done. Curby is better. Hope to see him and Melva soon. Pat had some difficult times this week. The doctors are trying to regulate her heart rate by adjusting her medication. Hope they've found the correct dose and she can be out today.

Tonight is the third Sunday, and time for the Youth devotion, and the Women's Study. Hope you've made plans to attend.

Hope to have the new directory out by Wed. night. It should be available in the "members" area of the church website.

"The man who has strong opinions and says what he thinks is courageous and friendless."

Sacrificing Children

In Ezek. 16:20 the Lord accuses the Israelites of having sacrificed their children to idols. This is only one of many such references to this abominable practice recorded in the Old Testament. And almost without exception, when every one of these references is read in a Bible class some one will exclaim that they just can't see how any parent could do such a thing. Surely, we all imagine to ourselves they must have been the worst sort of barbarians! How blind we are. For all our pious lamentations I seriously doubt there has ever been a nation who sacrificed more children to their idols than Americans today. And I do not speak just of "un-Christian" America. In the Lord's church itself I have seen mothers and fathers who would recoil in horror at the mention of human sacrifices practices by the Israelites, while at the same time allowing their own children to run straight to every altar Satan has erected in our land. Some even push them down the road faster.

Parents who encourage their children to seek popularity through worldly appeal; parents who by their example teach their children to drink, curse and lie; parents who fail to discipline their children; parents who are too busy, who give their children everything they want; parents who are too wrapped up in their own lives to teach their children the Bible and take them to worship - in what respect do they differ from the Israelite parents who sacrificed them to idols? We sacrifice them to the gods of our jobs, television, materialism and social popularity. Lord forgive us, and help us to see our folly before it's too late - before judgment comes on us too.

Phil Roberts

Assignments for today

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
Scripture Reading.....Phil. 2:5-11
Scripture Reader.....David Haley
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

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Schedule of Services

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible study
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Study and Devotional
Minister and editor
Jack Smith and Steve Garrett

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire