

# The REMINDER

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

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Number 7

## BUSY HERE AND THERE

There is an event recorded in I Kings 20 which was designed to make king Ahab aware that God knew of the king's failure to obey. God also used this incident to pronounce judgment on the king. Ahab, along with Jezebel were two of the most wicked rulers Israel ever had. But Ahab was still king, and God had entrusted him to execute God's judgment on Syria. His instruction was to utterly destroy, but instead Ahab made a treaty with Benhadad and let him go free.

Later the king is approached by a prophet disguised as a soldier. The prophet gives this story, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle, and behold, a man turned aside and brought a man unto me and said, 'keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall your life be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver: and as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone.' Ahab listened and delivered his verdict, 'So shall your judgment be; you have decided it.'" Then the prophet reveals himself to Ahab and tells him, like Nathan told David, "You are the man," Guilty by your own mouth, sentenced by your own sense of justice, "Thus says the Lord, because you have let go out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life." The prophet set before the king a picture of his neglect of opportunity, and it is worthy of our study. "Busy here and there" has robbed many good people of great blessings. It has blinded their eyes to the responsibilities they have to Jesus and their fellowman.

1. While I was busy here and there I failed to teach my neighbor. "And the things you have heard of me among many witnessed, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). Our sense of love for our fellow man and our duty to God imposes this responsibility on us. Paul referred to himself as a "debtor" in his mission of teaching the gospel. The concept of salvation is important, and we realize that it is, but living gets in the way. Dying gets in the way. Eating, sports and a thousand other activities interfere. What shall our judgment be?

2. While I was busy here and there, I failed to teach my children. Now, busy can be good, and just because we aren't busy doesn't mean we take time to deal with our children in the way God desires. We need to realize how serious this obligation is. Read Deut. 6:4-9. There is one God. Love Him with your heart, soul and mind. Teach this to your children when you sit with them (car, dinner table, etc), walk with them, when you go to bed and when you get up. Have you ever thought about painting scripture verses on the walls and door jambs in your house? "A child left to himself causes shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15). "And you fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). If you're too busy to raise them, you're too busy to have them.

3. While I was busy here and there, I lost my own soul. Most don't mean to get too busy. They're just trying to make a living. Waiting for the children to get a little older, waiting for warmer weather to attend services. It's always something. It's easy to lose your soul. Just get too busy to save it. Busy here and there. It's time to get busy about the Lord's work. Time won't wait.

JLS

# BulletinBoard

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Is This A Good Church?" (part 2)

PM Worship - Steve - New Song Session

**NEWS AND NOTES:** Just a few to mention as dealing with illness. Anna has some version of the flu. Respiratory congestion and distress. Marie Oliver, Sharon's mom, is still in St. Luke's. Her condition isn't good. Some days are better than others. Please remember that whole family. Laura Claburn is on the kidney transplant list. Sorry for the need, but when this is accomplished, she will be much better than now. Please pray for these folks.

Several out of town. Mike Pharris is in Dallas. Should be home tomorrow. Several of our women were in Dallas for a women's study. Linda and Maddie, Charlotte and Erin. Probably a couple of others. I think Linda and Maddie are home. Pray for a safe and profitable trip.

The youth devotion meets tonight at Barbara's. The women's study is at Anita's house tonight.

There is a gospel meeting at the Spring Woods church beginning today. Details on the bulletin board.

*"Sin has always been an ugly word, but it has been made so in a new sense over the last half century. It has been made not only ugly but passe. People are no longer sinful, they are only immature or under-privileged or frightened or, more particularly, sick."*

## Possessor or Possessed?

Have you heard of the fly that landed on a nice strip of gooey, sweet smelling fly paper? Quickly surveying the situation and not seeing a challenger in sight, he happily announced, "My fly paper." Sinking his nose in the syrupy stuff, he dined sumptuously. Then he blissfully snoozed in an "after dinner" siesta. Afterward, deciding to leave, he began hopelessly beating his wings against the air, and the paper announced, "My fly."

That's the way it turns out with us many times. We proudly boast, "My job - my house - my habit - my recreation - my money, etc." If we aren't careful these things will soon be able to look around and boast, "My man!"

We like to dream what we would do if we had more time, more money, more talent, a better house. Jesus said long ago, "and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much (Luke 16:10). In other words, what we are doing now with what we have is a good gauge to what we would do if we had more. If we are not willing to use what we have in the Lord's work, it matters little how much we have. Instead of possessing our possessions, we let our possessions possess us. We need to work on "priority living" - deciding what is really important and fitting all other things in as time and circumstances permit.

J. M. Kennedy

### Assignments for today

Sunday, February 17, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Scott Clanton  
Hymn Director.....Matt Miles  
Scripture Reading.....I Thess. 4:14  
Scripture Reader.....Terry Walker  
Opening Prayer.....Bob Ward  
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett  
Opening Prayer.....Kris Hester  
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

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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