

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

March 17, 2013

Number 11

"THOU MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR"

"The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor... Go in this thy might and thou shalt save Israel from the Midianites." To what brave and stalwart soldier were these words spoken? To Gideon, a man who truly deserved them - eventually. But when they were first spoken to him, he was far from what the words implied.

If Gideon had ever wielded a sword there is no record of it. When God called him he was threshing wheat secretly for fear of the Midianites who regularly plundered his country. Being told by the Lord to throw down Baal's altar, he did so - but under cover of darkness "because he feared his father's house and the men of the city." Before he would even attempt to organize an army he required not one, but two signs from the Lord involving a fleece and the dew of heaven. And before he was ready to go into battle, God had to grant him yet another omen, allowing him to overhear Midianite soldiers expressing their fear of Gideon. "Mighty man of valor," indeed! God must have been looking at what he would become, not at what he was.

Simon's friends must have raised their eyebrows when Jesus called him Peter - a stone. How unlike a stone he was throughout the personal ministry! Yet, following the resurrection and the encounter with Jesus by the sea, Simon was indeed Peter, exactly what Jesus challenged him to be.

Does not God still deal with us in this way? Sometimes He speaks of the unconverted as His people (Acts 18:10). Those newly converted are addressed as saints, though possessing only the faintest suggestion of that holiness that is implied in the word. They are "children of God," though only beginning to be "partakers of the divine nature." They "sit together with Christ in heavenly places," although they are still struggling with the flesh and their old worldly habits. Shall we not learn from this? Recently, I expressed doubt that a certain alcoholic could ever be changed. Another brother (formerly a heavy drinker himself) disagreed, expressing hope for him. Which of us will be more likely to reach him?

Our children are all potentially devout faithful Christians. We must let them know this is what we expect. They must never be labelled "bad." Occasionally they make mistakes, perhaps grievous ones, but these must be dealt with as actions out of harmony with their true character. We are disappointed, but never disillusioned.

If Paul could write to the church in Corinth with all its problems, "I thank my God always concerning you," then surely we can speak positively to any modern congregation. More is accomplished by encouraging and exhorting than by constant brow-beating and fault-finding. Regular commendation of what is good lends effectiveness to rebuke when that is necessary. Even to the weak, we may say, "Go in this thy might!"

Jewell Hall

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

Our gospel meeting begins today. Bro. Truex will present morning and evening lessons. He will also teach the combined adult Bible classes.

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 had a wonderful worship service Wednesday night. And with bro. Truex with us today, we look forward to another great day. He begins our gospel meeting that lasts thru Wed. night. Take advantage of every opportunity.

Don't know of any "new" on the sick list. Several have been suffering with seasonal allergies, and that will probably continue for another month or so. Anna was able to be out on Wed. night. Glad to see she is doing better.

Hopefully most of "us" have returned from Spring break. We had over 40 out of town last week. Maybe we need to do this vacationing like you do at work. Ask permission, and not everyone can go at once. Steve and Muffy are gone this week. He is in a meeting in Mauriceville. Harrison and Mark were gone for a couple of days. Don't know when they return, but they're bringing Lizzie back. Our prayer for a safe return for all, and thanks to God for watching over us.

"Better the shoulder to the wheel than the back to the wall."

Christian Carpentry

""Regardless of your lot in life, build something good on it."

I'm not sure who coined that little gem of wisdom, but its principle is a valid one. Isn't it interesting that God has made us so that we can take even the most distressing circumstances and extract something beneficial from them? For example...

We can take the "trials" of life, i.e., sickness, sorrow, disappointment, discouragement, and use them as stepping stones to spiritual maturity and productivity (James 1:2-4).

We can remain faithful to the Lord even in the midst of discouraging and trying church relationships. There were a "few names, even in Sardis" who did not bow to the majority, follow their pattern of lethargy, and thus contribute to the deadness of that particular church (Rev. 3:1-6).

We can retain our abhorrence of sin even in the midst of an ungodly, sinful generation. Like Lot, we can maintain a "righteous soul" that is distressed with the "filthy conduct of the wicked" (2 Pet. 2:7). We simply do not have to become social or moral chameleons who blend with ease into the world's mold.

We can and, therefore, we must. The only question that remains is whether or not we will.

Don Truex

"Second hand information is much like second hand furniture. Both have been kicked around too much."

Assignments for today

Sunday, March 17, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....2 Tim. 1:10-11
Scripture Reader.....David Gorski
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Scott Clanton
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