

The REMINDER

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

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THE LAST TO KNOW

The children of Israel were on the threshold of the promised land. It was theirs for the taking. They would not have to rely on their own power; God would give them the land through His mighty Power. All they had to do was to exercise enough faith and trust in the Lord to enter in.

The Egyptians knew well what God could do for these people. They had experienced the plagues. An emptiness still hovered over their households because of the deaths of all their firstborn. They could not have yet recovered from the miraculous opening - and closing - of the Red Sea, with its devastating consequences. The Egyptians knew!

The people of Canaan knew. Reports had reached them concerning the mighty God of the Israelites. The resultant fear that had swept their souls was well stated by Rahab: "Your terror is fallen upon us...all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you...our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you" (Joshua 2:9-11). They knew!

Only the Israelites did not know - **the Israelites!** The ones who should have known best. Their spies returned with a fearful report: "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we...there we saw the giants...and we were in our sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:31-33). As a result the congregation, motivated by fear, and judging on the basis of their own strength rather than that of God, failed in their faith, refused to enter their promised land, and died in the wilderness. Had they only known what the heathen nations knew so well...!

The application is rather obvious. In our fight against the enemies of truth we have a powerful sword with which to fight, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17), and a powerful God to provide the victory. The devil knows the power of that sword. He has been put to flight many times because of it (Matt. 4:1-11; James 4:7). False teachers know. Their "hearts do melt" because of it and they advise their followers not to study with Christians lest they "become confused." The victory is ours for the taking. God will provide it through His mighty power. But we make the mistake of looking at our own strength instead of the Lord's. We see the "giants" in the land. Timidity and fear sweep our souls; we waver in our faith; and we fail to gain the victory. If only we knew what the enemy knows so well.

All is not lost. There are the "Joshuas" and "Calebs" of our generation who know the power of God and are not afraid. They are men (and women) of courage, faith, trust and conviction. They know what God can do through their efforts. Pray that others will rally around them. God will give the victory.

Bill Hall

Bulletin Board

Spirits That Divide

Despite the commands and prayers of our Lord, the body of Christ is suffering. Almost weekly we hear of congregations on the brink of dividing. Peace is lost, influence is damaged or destroyed. Wherever there are folks whose hearts are not in the cause of Christ, division will arise.

The Spirit of Contention. Solomon wrote, "Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife" (Prov. 26:21). Paul warned us to, "reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned" (Titus 3:10f).

The Spirit of Self-will. While the Lord specifically condemned this spirit in elders (Titus 1:7), it applies just as well to all Christians. Note that (1) we are *all servants* of Christ, (2) we are *all members* of the same body, and (3) we are *all subject* to the guidance of the New Testament. There is no room for even one member who wants to exert dominance over others (3 John 9).

The Spirit of Bitterness. "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice" (Eph. 4:32). These words deal with attitudes and consequences failing to control our feelings. If those with the spirit of bitterness did not hurt their brethren so much, we could feel sorry for them because they must be the most miserable people on earth!

Larry McKee



AM Lesson - Jack - "To God Be The Glory".
PM Lesson - Steve "Forgive Each Other".

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 meeting last week. Don is home safely, preparing to do his work there today. Thanks so much to all for your support here last week. Many were here for all the services. We had long, busy days, and hopefully are spiritually refreshed and better prepared for the journey to heaven.

Welcome home to Steve and Muffy. Missed them as Steve was in a meeting in Mauriceville last week.

There are many meeting announcements on the bulletin board for the next couple of weeks. Take a look at those and attend if you can.

Most are aware that Jay and Megan were married a week or two ago (I lose track of time) They are living at 5527 Nina Lee Lane, Houston, 77092. We'll get their picture on the board, of course with Maddie and Charlie, as soon as possible. Congratulations to them. Our prayer for a long, happy time together.

"There are some silent people who are more interesting than the best talkers."

Assignments for today

Sunday, March 24, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Titus 2:11-14
Scripture Reader.....Terry Walker
Opening Prayer.....Bob Ward
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

BELLAIRE church of Christ

8001 South Rice Ave • P.O. Box 1029

Bellaire, Texas 77402

713/668-4810

<http://www.bellairechurchofchrist.org>

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