

The REMINDER

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

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GOING TO HEAVEN

"After all is said and done, there's usually more said than done." The point is, there is more involved in going to heaven than just talking about it. Peter urges: "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." Paul admonishes: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12). A man has responsibilities to perform before God if he wants to inherit eternal life (Matt. 7:21).

Many people don't oppose talking about the Bible, or listening to the Scriptures being preached; but when it comes to doing what the Truth requires of them they have more pressing business elsewhere. Felix was like this (Acts 24:24f). As far as we know, that "convenient season" never came; he never obeyed the gospel, therefore, when Christ comes "in flaming fire: the punishment of everlasting destruction" shall be his lot (2 Thess. 1:7f). Thousands are deceiving themselves right into hell. James says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Paul: "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (James 1:22; Rom. 2:13).

I don't know the religious convictions of Henry Ward Beecher, but his perception along these lines is reflected in this statement attributed to him: "No matter what a man's aims or resolutions or professions may be, it is by one's deeds that he is to be judged, both by God and man." (*New Dictionary of Thoughts*, p. 133). Our good intentions must be turned into good actions, for by our actions we shall be judged - not according to what we talked about doing, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:120).

The chief rulers believed on Christ (John 12:42), but their conviction wasn't of sufficient intensity to lead them into consequent obedience. Likewise those referred to as "devils" (James 2:19) are said to believe that there is one God. Furthermore, they were fearful of their circumstances, even unto trembling in fright! Yet they never stopped being demons. "Behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).

How many children of God, during sermons, exhortations or personal evangelism classes have vowed to go to their neighbor "tomorrow" with the gospel? but have never quite made it to their friends door? "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

Talk is cheap! "Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Remember this: No one ever serves God by doing things tomorrow. If you plan to serve Him it must begin today.

ayse Reneau

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"
PM Worship - First Sunday Singing

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: There are several to remember in our prayers. Janet McGlamery is in Memorial Hermon SW. She had a "mild" heart attack Wed. night. She had a couple of procedures to clean out some old work doctors had done, and had 3 stents placed. She is weak, but recovering. Anayah Nickerson spent several days in Texas Children's. Remember her and family. Katie Howell has had several bouts with bronchitis recently. Hope with the arrival of Spring she can shake this problem. Anna Meikle is also down with respiratory problems. Jan Cooper's brother has recently developed blood sugar problems. We need God's help at all times, but sometimes it is impressed on us especially.

Alyssa Clanton was baptized on Monday night. Give thanks for that.

Steve and Muffy are out of town this weekend. He's in a meeting in Columbus. Barbara McDonald is on a trip to Europe. Probably others will also be out of town.

Several gospel meetings are in progress. Check the bulletin board for updates.

Without The Venom

In Bill Whitehead's comic strip, "Free Range," a marriage counselor is mediating an obviously angry dispute between two poisonous snakes. She exhorts them, "Okay, both of you take a deep breath and try to talk to each other without the venom this time." That is hard for snakes to do, but it is important for each of us to heed such advice.

Whether in marriage, on the job, in school or anywhere, stress, exhaustion, undisciplined emotion, hurt feelings, mistrust and fear can be toxic ingredients in communication. Rivalry can rout relationships. Heaping hurts can hinder happiness.

The book of Proverbs, or James or Colossians, or most any other urges us to use the tongue, but to do it with caution. It can bring destruction or healing. "Like apples of gold in settings of silver/Is a word spoken in right circumstances" (Prov. 25:11). When we read our Bible there is not much wiggle room in it for verbal venom.

Next time you feel your rattler rising, remember who you are and what God expects of you. Disagreements are inevitable. Destructiveness is optional.
adapted from an article by Neal Pollard

"Sometimes refusal of praise is a desire to be praised twice."

Assignments for today

Sunday, April 7, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....David Gorski
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Hebrews 5:1-9
Scripture Reader.....Samuel Camp
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Opening Prayer.....Terry Walker
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

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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

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