

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

April 28, 2013

Number 17

A DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE

Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, preached the first gospel sermon (Acts 2) to Jews assembled in Jerusalem. These people were believers in God. It was necessary to convince them that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was the Son of God and the Messiah foretold in Scriptures. In order to do this Peter used three lines of evidence. First: The prophets had foretold the resurrection. Second: We (the apostles) are eyewitnesses to the resurrection. Third: The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Remember that the Spirit could not come until after Jesus ascended to the Father (John 16:7). This necessitated a resurrection. The conclusion to this preaching was that Jesus was both Lord and Christ. The Book of God says, "Now when they heard this, they were *pricked in their heart*, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

The verb translated "pricked" means "primarily to strike or prick violently, to stun, is used of strong emotion." (Vine's Expository Dictionary) When this group of Jews, from every nation under heaven, heard the gospel, they were pricked in their hearts. They were sinners, guilty of putting the Son of God to death. The effect that this preaching had on their heart is quite impressive. It is evident from the context and question that they knew they were guilty of the charge Peter made. They wanted to know what they could do. Notice the answer: "And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins..." (2:38). The Bible records that about 3000 who gladly received the word were baptized that day.

As the church began to grow and spread we read some of the sermons preached. In Acts 7 we have Stephen's sermon about Jesus and the resurrection. Read the chapter. Stephen concluded with the fact that the Jews had rejected and killed the prophets that foretold the coming of the Christ. He charged that the present generation was no better. "Now when they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth...But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed upon him with one accord: and they cast him out of the city and stoned him" (Acts 7:54-58).

The word translated "cut" in verse 54 is a different one from that used in Acts 2:37. This word "signifies to saw asunder, to divide by saw, hence, metaphorically, to be rent with vexation, to be cut to the heart." (Vine).

Our contrast in Acts 2 and 7 is not in the preachers, nor in the message preached, but rather in the attitude of the people addressed. One group recognized their sin and sought remission; the other heard the truth, but because of their disposition were angered to the extent that they took the life of the preacher.

How is it with you? When you hear or read the Word of God, do you inquire earnestly as to how you may obey it, or do you become angry at the messenger? Emulate those of Acts 2 who gladly received the Word and obeyed it.

Ferrell Jenkins

Bulletin Board

Trying Christ's Way



AM Lesson - Jack - "Provoking to Wrath"
PM Lesson - Steve - "Let's Give"

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: Again, thanks are in order to God for our good health. Nothing "new" to add. Anna is still having difficulty with respiratory problems. Several of our children have been sick with flu or allergies, but all seem to be recovering well. Continue to pray for those with long term difficulties.

We'll have several out of town this weekend. Connie is in Pensacola with family. Jay and Megan are gone. All or part of the Morolez and Kelsey families are also gone. Hope they have good times and safe journeys.

We'll have a work day at the building next Saturday, May 4. Most of the work will be outside as we try to landscape the S. Rice lawn. Bring rakes, shovels, wheel barrows and gloves if you need them. There will also be some inside work for those who want to help. Just a couple of hours should be sufficient to accomplish much. And we'll enjoy each other's company, as we always do.

"A man's character and his garden both reflect the amount of weeding that was done during the growing season."

In his interesting and insightful book, *The Jesus Style*, Gayle Erwin gives extensive comment to Jesus' command to "love one another. As I have love you, so you must love one another" (Jn. 13:34-35). "As I have loved you" - that truly is the key. But just how did Jesus love His disciples?

Perhaps a partial answer to that question is found in the many passages that instruct us as to how we are to treat "one another" in Christ. For example, we are to...

- "Be kindly affectioned one to another"
- "Follow peace and edify one another"
- "Serve one another"
- "Forgive one another"
- "Submit to one another"
- "Do not lie one to another"
- "Comfort one another"
- "Be of the same mind one to another"
- "Pray for one another"

Until these fruits of love are evident, we present Christianity to the world as merely another philosophical system to be debated - but not lived. May God help us to rise above that.

Don Truex

"There is much I do not know about God, but what I do know has changed my life."

Assignments for today

Sunday, April 28, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....	Bob	Ward
Hymn Director.....	Lee	Williams
Scripture Reading.....	Heb. 10:1-18	
Scripture Reader.....	Austin	Miles
Opening Prayer.....	Bill	Hill
Closing Prayer.....	Bob	Ward

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....	Mark	Mann
Opening Prayer.....	Chris	Cecil
Closing Prayer.....	Bob	Ward

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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