

The REMINDER

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

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May 5, 2013

Number 18

MORE THAN THE PULPIT

Even with the most elaborate preparations and planting the purest of seed, the farmer who sows most of his seed in his own front yard can expect but a limited harvest. The same is true with churches. Even when capable teachers are faithfully proclaiming the pure word of God in our commodious and comfortable buildings, the harvest will necessarily be limited to those in attendance. While the need for pulpit and classroom teaching cannot be discounted, it is simply not enough. We need to get out of our own front yard with the incorruptible seed that can save souls!

We must "go" because many will not "come". Relatively few non-Christians are attending worship services and Bible classes. Those who do attend seldom do so with any regularity and even then are not likely to hear lessons that are most appropriate to their needs. Let's face it, most who need the gospel are not coming to our front yard to get in. If they are to be reached it will take more than the pulpit.

Consequently, every qualified member of the Lord's church should seek for opportunities to sow the seed of the kingdom. As the pillar and ground of the truth (I Tim. 3:15), the church bears a serious and unique obligation to the gospel - not only to love it and live it, but to proclaim it as well. If the words of life are to be heard in a lost and dying world, it is the people of God who must speak them. God does not look to those in error to teach His truth, nor does He look just to a few gospel preachers to do all this work. He looks to all "faithful men...to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2).

We need to take the gospel to the lost because in their homes is often afforded the most favorable of teaching situations. There the student is not lost in the crowd; the lessons have a more personal flavor. Where else could a student feel more "at home" and feel free to ask pertinent questions without fear of embarrassment? There he relates himself to the subject more readily; he hears the lessons most relevant to his needs. With home studies the prevalent problem of absenteeism is almost nil. Many will keep an appointment with a teacher at home who won't do so at a church building. What better arrangement for teaching Bible truths?

For these and other reasons it would seem a wise use of time for us to become more involved in this house-to-house kind of teaching. We need more kitchen table lecterns and sofa pews. There is still good soil - just waiting to receive this incorruptible seed and bear fruit. Of course, not all who are thusly taught will obey, but at least we can be assured that they have been taught and are now capable of making an informed decision. When we have done our part, God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:7). But many will wonder how to arrange such a home Bible study. A friend of mine told me the secret: *JUST ASK!*

Dan Shipley

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Dealing With Wrath."
PM Worship - First Sunday song service.
Robert is directing.

NEWS AND NOTES: There are several to keep on your prayer list. Remember Mike Huffman from the Parkview congregation. His address is on the bulletin board, it's for the hospital in San Antonio. Curby Stech is in St. Luke's in the medical center. He has pneumonia. Zara and Kale are some better. Hope to see them today.

There are quite a number of meetings in the area. They are posted on the bulletin board.

Had a wonderful work day yesterday. Thanks for the good number of volunteers. I had planned on what we could accomplish, but had to keep going back to the plant store for more supplies. Can't express to you what a wonderful, fun group it was. I'm proud to be associated with this church.

"God's garden of people should grow more 'Let us'."

"Tears can be contact lenses through which we see more clearly."

"Unplanted seed can never bear fruit."

Who's In Charge?

There's a story about a sea captain and his chief engineer arguing about which of them was more important to the ship. Failing to agree, they resorted to a unique plan of swapping places.

The engineer ascended to the bridge and the captain went to the engine room. After a couple of hours the captain suddenly appeared on the deck covered with oil and soot.

"Chief!" he yelled, wildly waving aloft a monkey wrench. "You'll have to come down here; I can't make her go!"

"Of course you can't," replied the chief. "We're aground!"

That argument between the captain and the chief engineer - and its results - mirrors the struggle that you and I face when it comes to who is in charge of our lives. Jeremiah spoke the truth when he wrote: "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walks to direct his steps" (10:23). In fact, when you and I seek to take control and direct our own ships, we often "run it aground," for "there is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

We need direction. The real issue is Lordship - who is going to be the lord of our lives?

"God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God" (James 4:6-7).

Assignments for today

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Alex Morolez
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Heb. 10:19-25, 29
Scripiture Reader.....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez
Closing Prayer.....Alex Morolez

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
Closing Prayer.....Alex Morolez

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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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