

The REMINDER

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

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Number 27

"I'M GAY AND GOD LOVES ME"

So read, I am told, a tee-shirt worn in public by a mature (age wise) man. As strange as it may seem to some who know me, I am in complete agreement with what is actually said on the shirt. The statement is true, and I can prove it by turning to God's word. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God's love for the world is all encompassing and excludes no one. This beautiful passage does not say, nor even imply, that God loves the righteous and those who obey Him, to the exclusion of others. Well, so much for what the shirt says.

What is not said, but what the wearer wanted people to believe, is "I'm Gay and God approves of my life style." What is actually said and what is implied are worlds apart. God's love has naught to do with whether or not He approves of the actions of the individual. The following statements would be just as true: "I'm a mass murderer and God loves me." "I'm a pedophile and God loves me." "I'm a rapist and God loves me." God loves each of these with a love so strong that He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for their sins by dying on the cross. God's Son died on Golgotha that you, the shirt wearer, and I might be saved from our sins, but certainly not while embracing and living in our sins.

The shirt wearer has evidently made the stupid mistake of implying/believing that God's love equals God's approval. He certainly was not the first to make this mindless assumption, and will not be the last. "God so loved the world..." but the truth is that the majority of God's creation will not be allowed in heaven, but will be in eternal torment. "Enter in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in by it. For narrow is the gate and straitened the way that leads into life, and few are they that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14). It is the many versus the few. No, I do not know the exact number of the many or the few, but I do understand the point being made. In the flood there were only 8 who were saved (Gen. 6-7). In the destruction of Sodom there were, in the final outcome, only 3 (Gen. 19).

"And if a man lie with mankind, as with womankind, both of them have committed abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Lev. 20:13; see also Lev. 18:22-23).

"For this cause God gave them up to vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26-27).

Do I hate the ones who do such things? NO! I do not hate the murderer, rapist, pedophile, nor the homosexual. Their actions are the subject of hatred, but not the individual. I would that they would come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that the Bible really means what it says. Obey God today so that we may receive the "well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys of the Lord."

Condensed from an article by Bill Beasley

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve
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: Hope everyone had a wonderful 4th. We had so many out of town on Wed. night. Most will be back by today, so should be a wonderful worship service. Anita and I left yesterday for our cruise. We'll miss being with you, but will be with some wonderful folks, and hope to be home safely on the 15th.

Caleb Owen is to have surgery on Tuesday. His family (extended) will be here for a couple of days. Our prayers for him in his recovery.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Bill Collet. He has preached the word faithfully for many years. He was working with the church in LaPorte. He will be missed by the church there and so many who have known him thru the years.

*"Politicians who try to please everybody at once are like a puppy trying to follow four kids who are going in different directions at the same time."
(That's also the problem of modern religions and preachers)*

That Little Extra Effort...

The difference between success and failure is often determined by the willingness to put forth that little extra effort. In many areas putting forth extra effort makes the difference between a good church and a really good church.

That "little extra effort" gets us to Bible class as well as worship on the Lord's Day.

That "little extra effort" brings us back to the evening worship.

That "little extra effort" causes us to spend more time in private study of God's Word.

That "little extra effort" reminds us to claim the privilege of prayer.

That "little extra effort" helps us to be more sacrificial in our giving as measured by our prosperity instead of the attitude that says give as little as possible.

That "little extra effort" leads us into a compassionate concern for the lost and wayward, and reminds us to speak to them about their spiritual condition.

That "little extra effort" involves us in every activity of the local church.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23-24).

Assignments for today

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Scott Clanton
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Rev. 7:13-17
Scripture Reader....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams
Opening Prayer.....Bill Hill
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

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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