

# The REMINDER

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

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## LISTENING, REALLY LISTENING, TO THE LORD

Jesus once asked His disciples, "Who do men say the Son of man is?" The disciples gave Him a variety of answers, each expressing a view of Jesus held by certain groups of Israelites. We can ask a similar question today about the Bible. What do men say about the Bible? This question also reflects on our opinion of the Lord. We get many answers to this question.

There was a single correct answer to the question Jesus posed to the disciples, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." There is also a single correct answer to the question about the Bible. For our answer we turn to one passage in the Bible, though many could be used to teach the same lesson. The answer is found almost incidentally, buried in an illustration Jesus used to explain to His disciples about the danger of riches: Luke 16:19-31.

In this story of the rich man and Lazarus, you recall that the rich man in torment called to Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering with a drop of water. After the explanation of why this was impossible, the rich man then asked that Lazarus be sent to his five brothers to warn them "lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said to him, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one go to them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead."

You must answer for yourself the question, "What do YOU think about the Bible?" But from this passage we can see the view Jesus had. He saw the Bible as furnishing a person with everything he needs to know to arrive safely in Abraham's bosom. Everything the rich man's brothers needed to avoid torment was found in the scriptures available to them.

Why is it that the five brothers of the rich man would not have responded had Lazarus been sent to them? It is the same reason people today would not respond if someone were to return from the tomb and warn them of the need to repent. If we don't "like" the message we tend to ignore it. The man who is ambitious, who covets power, would not be interested because it would require him to become humble and self-abasing. The man who seeks pleasure would not listen because he does not want to hear a lesson on self-denial. The man who is greedy would ignore the gospel that teaches him to practice liberality. The man who harbors malice would not be receptive because the message would teach him to be merciful and to show forgiveness.

The Bible IS sufficient to meet our spiritual needs, but it only helps if we listen to the teaching. Millions have been touched by the power of the word of God. They have submitted to it on the basis of trust and hope. Millions more have rejected the teaching because they realized that to follow its precepts they would have to change. What is your attitude toward the scriptures? Are you waiting for something momentous or spectacular to occur to prompt you to obey? You already have every persuasive argument you need contained in the Bible.

# Bulletin Board

Sermon Notes:

Steve has both the lessons today. We pray for a profitable worship experience for the brethren at Bellaire.

## Pictures of Faith

Faith is such a wonderful quality that it is impossible to define adequately with words. That may be why the Bible is not only a collection of doctrines and treatises, but also of stories of people and their responses to God. Four of these well known stories offer us insights into the real meaning of the faith God is looking for.

**Picture #1:** The unquestioning obedience of Abraham (Gen. 22:9ff; James 1:22; 2:14ff). In this picture we see a man whom God commanded to do something he detested to do - offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Of course, before he could complete this assignment, God sent an angel to stop the slaughter and announce, "Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou has not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

**Picture #2:** The unwavering confidence of David (I Sam. 17:4ff). Picture this shepherd boy, inexperienced in battle, walking briskly onto the battlefield to face the fearsome Giant, Goliath! David did not think it so strange. He only thought it strange that there were not others as confident as he in God's power to deliver.

**Picture #3:** The unseeing certainty of Abraham (Heb. 11:1, 6, 8ff). Faith is certainty of that which we do not see. Such faith is not an option if one wants to please God. Abraham packed up his goods and gathered his household and left on a journey, never to return. Abraham

didn't know his destination, but God did, and that was all the direction he needed.

**Picture #4:** The unyielding hope of Job (Job 2:9-10; 13:15; 19:9ff). Although we know Satan caused all of Job's misery, Job and his friends believed God had afflicted Job with all his losses. But Job never gave up on his hope in God. "Through He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (13:15).

May our faith grow into unquestioning obedience, unwavering confidence, unseeing certainty and unyielding hope.

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.**

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*"A stroll down memory lane would be most pleasant if we could detour around a few "rough" spots."*

*Modern definition of "Prosperity": Making installment payment on ten things instead of one.*

*"There have been many changes for the better in recent years, and some people have been against all of them."*

*"The secret of economy is to live as cheaply the first few days after pay-day as you did the last few days before."*

### Assignments for today

Sunday, July 14, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Scott Clanton  
Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson  
Scripture Reading.....Rev. 11:7-8  
Scripture Reader....Terry Walker  
Opening Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough  
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Matt Miles  
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