

The REMINDER

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

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CAN WE IMPROVE?

Thus my churchgoing was a merely symbolical and provisional practice. If in fact helped to move me in the Christian direction, I was and am unaware of this. (Surprised By Joy, C.S. Lewis)

These sentences appear toward the end of this autobiography of Lewis. The book is the story of Lewis' early life and explains his conversion from atheism to faith. In parts the story has all the excitement of a mystery novel as Lewis traces step by step the influences which led him out of atheism. It is interesting to observe that Lewis' "churchgoing" is said to have had no noticeable effect in moving him toward Christianity.

Now I do not want to lift these statements out of context. To be sure, Lewis is discussing the Episcopal forms which he encountered. But should not his statements make us all call for an examination of the life and character of the churches where we are, even among congregations of Christ, with a view to determining whether we can see a fit soil for faith to thrive in? What about our worship meetings? What about the Bible classes? What about our advocacy of the word from the pulpit? What about activity apart from public meetings?

"Belief comes of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." But should there not be something about the Christian community that would draw one to the Lord? Listen to Jesus: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (John 13:35). "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word: that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that you did send me" (John 17:20). Jesus prays for those who believe through the apostolic word... that they may be one... that the world may believe. Belief comes through the apostolic word. But should not the observable effect of that word in the Christian community make an impression also? Should it not add strength to the apostolic testimony?

It is time for honest examination. Do the things seen in modern churches point one to the Lord? Do they tend to aid and mature faith? Or are they often a difficult trial for faith to endure? Is there need for change? If so, where shall we begin? Surely not with me. Nor with you of course. Where then?

L.A. Mott

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "When Time Begins"
PM Worship - Song service. Greg Williams is
in charge.

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: Please keep Rebecca in your prayers this week. She is scheduled for a "C" section on Tuesday. Laura Claburn is in Methodist (written on Saturday). Keep her in your prayers also. There are many on our long term list. Please remember them.

New classes begin today. Adult classes - Steve teaches in the auditorium. John Moon is the co-teacher. Studying Ephesians, Colossians, Timothy and Titus. Jack teaches in room 102. David Gorski and Alex Morolez are co-teachers. Studying Ecclesiastes and Proverbs.

A directory update is in progress. A rough draft is on the table. Please check it for additions or corrections. Some of your phone numbers especially are incorrect.

Tempestt Parker is placing membership with us. She has been here for a month or more, so we know her a little. We welcome her and look forward to getting better acquainted. Her contact info will be in the new directory.

"Some people's minds are so broad that they must be really shallow."

Three Dollars Worth of God

*I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.
Not enough to explode my soul or disturb
my sleep,
but just enough to equal a cup of warm
milk
or a snooze in the sunshine.
I don't want enough of God to make me
love a black man
or pick beets with a migrant.
I want ecstasy, not transformation.
I want warmth of the womb, not a new
birth.*

*I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper
sack.*

*I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.
Wilbur Rees*

This is from Steve's lesson last week, and is one of the most powerful statements I've seen in a long time. See if we can learn from it to experience the truth of God in our individual lives. Then share that life with others.

"There are two classes of people - the righteous and the unrighteous. The classifying is always done by the righteous."

"The Bible never suffers from neglect; it is only those who neglect it who suffer."

Assignments for today

Sunday, September 1, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Alex Morolez
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Mark 10:32-34, 43-45
Scripture Reader...David Haley
Opening Prayer.....Samuel Camp
Closing Prayer.....Alex Morolez

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith
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

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire