

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

September 22, 2013

Number 38

THE CHRISTIAN'S INFLUENCE

In Matthew 5:13ff Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden underfoot of men. You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

This text certainly suggests the theme of the influence a Christian has in the world. Whether or not we realize it, we all possess influence. Paul said, "For none lives to himself, and no man dies to himself" (Rom. 14:7). Simply, no man lives without influencing others in some way.

Influence is something you cannot lose. It clings closer to us than anything we possess. It is possible to have good influence, and by carelessness, cause it to become a bad influence. We often don't realize the power we have over others until we begin to lead them astray. Parents who live an ungodly life never realize that their lives have had a bad influence on their children until they begin to live ungodly lives also. We can change our influence, but we can never lose it.

Even death doesn't end our influence. "By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks" (Heb. 11:4). The Hebrew writer established the fact that Abel's influence still lives on even though he has been dead for thousands of years. Revelation states that those who die in the Lord: "Their works do follow them" (14:13). This makes the responsibility of our maintaining a good influence even more important. It will continue to lead in the way we have taken in this world, whether good or bad.

How do we go about exerting this influence? Paul suggests several ways in I Tim. 4:12, "Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to the believers in word, manner of life, in love, in faith,, in purity."

1. In Word. Perhaps the easiest way to "slip" or to enhance our influence. A true index to our character. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29). "Filthiness, foolish talking or jesting" are also mentioned (5:4). In this respect David's prayer is most meaningful, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, My strength and my redeemer" (Psa. 19:14).

2. In Conversation (Manner of life). There is no contradiction between the versions. We converse with our lives just as much as with our tongues. Our neighbors judge more by what we do than by how much we pray or attend services, though all is necessary to please God and stay strong in the faith. "Only let your conversation (manner of living) be as becometh the gospel of Christ". (concluded on back page)

BulletinBoard

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Balance"
PM Lesson - Jack - "Rejected Indeed"

NEWS AND NOTES: There are several on our sick list that we can certainly give thanks for. Harper Grigsby came thru surgery just fine. Her heart problems seem to be resolved, she's eating and playing, just like a 2 year old should be. She's out of the hospital, but staying around for a couple more days for check-ups. Bill Calton, Kim's dad, is finished with his treatments, and is back home now. Others aren't doing as well. Robert Zuniga's brother-in-law plans to come to MD Anderson for evaluation if he is able to travel. His condition is very serious with pancreatic and liver cancer. Gene Mabry, whom we support to preach at the Murphy Rd. church is in the hospital. He had a leg amputated last week. His overall condition isn't good. Remember him and his family. Jesus Trevino, whom we support to preach in Lake Jackson was in the hospital as well with a heart attack. A couple of stents were placed. His condition doesn't seem to be too bad in that it was a "minor" attack. Our thoughts and prayers for all these.

Our gospel meeting and singing is nearing. October 4-5. Looks like a couple of great days. Hope all have made plans to attend.

There are several other meetings and singings listed on the bulletin board. Be sure to take a look.

Influence (concluded from front)

3. In Love. Love for truth, love for one another, love for the Lord. All, believers and unbelievers will be more impressed with this spirit than that of hatred and bitterness. Let it be the love the Lord demonstrated and commanded, "A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

4. In spirit and faith. Most translations other than KJV combine these traits. With all our hearts we serve God according to the faith once delivered. Hypocrisy doesn't characterize God's children. We don't live in fear or bow to jealousy. Living what we believe is a powerful statement.

5. In Purity. What a statement this would make in our immoral, amoral society. Sexual purity, honesty, devotion to duty are qualities we seldom see unmixed in anyone. Consistency in this area is imperative.

Who do you know who has been influenced for good by your life?

"Some men think they have an inferiority complex when, in fact, they are just inferior."

"Alcohol is the only enemy man has succeeded in loving."

Assignments for today

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Rudy Black
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Mark 15:21-47
Scripüre Reader...Chris Cecil
Opening Prayer.....Terry Walker
Closing Prayer.....Rudy Black

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
Closing Prayer.....Rudy Black

BELLAIRE church of Christ

8001 South Rice Ave • P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, Texas 77402

713/668-4810

<http://www.bellairechurchofchrist.org>

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