

The REMINDER

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

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"Some Believed...& Some Disbelieved"

The work of the gospel among men produced two classes. "Some believed, and some disbelieved" (Acts 28:24). Are you curious enough about these two groups to take a closer look? What distinguished them?

What kind of person became a believer? Someone like Peter or John - a person who would say, "We know what is right and we will just have to do it, let the consequences be what they may" (Acts 4:19f). Someone like that. Someone who would say, "We must obey God rather than men" (5:29), in the face of frightful consequences. A person like the Ethiopian (8:26f). Or Cornelius, a man eager as he was "to hear all things that have been commanded of the Lord" (10:33). Persons like these who were serving God to the best of their knowledge already and only had to know better to be moved to serve better. A teachable person like Apollos who, though a fine preacher, was dead wrong on a most significant point, but a man who was willing to listen to correction from humble people (18:24ff).

People like that became believers. Some of them were dreadful sinners (I Cor 6:9-11). But all were people of "honest and good heart" (Luke 8:15). That distinguished them.

What kind of person chose not to believe? People like the Sanhedrists who, in the face of unsettling evidence, chose to buy a lie and cover up the truth (Matt. 28:11-15); who, confronted by evidence they could not explain or refute, instead of admitting its force or even starting a deeper investigation in search of the truth, sought only to keep the gospel from spreading (Acts 4:13-18). Men like the Jews who found themselves unable to defend their position in honorable controversy and turned to dishonorable methods, putting up lying witnesses against Stephen, finally killing him, but never listening (6:8-14; 7:54-58). People moved by ulterior motives in their opposition to the gospel - jealous people fearful of losing their following, people who "thrust the word of God from themselves", covetous people. In short, people who placed a higher value on something other than truth, who let this other something cloud their judgment, who were fundamentally dishonest. These were the unbelievers.

As we follow the apostles from place to place and from audience to audience we soon realize that the presentation of the word of God is a moment of crisis for the one who hears. It lays bare what he really is. It forces him to decide what kind of person he means to be. The presentation of the word of God to a person sets in motion a process by which the intents of that person's heart are exposed. Men think they are sitting in judgment on the claims of God's word when in fact it is judging them. How are you handling this crisis in your life?

condensed from an article by L.A. Mott

Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Steve - "Parents and Kids"
PM Worship - Singing - Weston is in charge

NEWS AND NOTES: Again, we give thanks for our good health. Most of us are doing very well. Do keep Jocelyn in your prayers. She took a fall and injured her knee. Probably won't be here today. Pat had some great news about her brother. He had surgery last week for a mass in his colon. The doctors removed it. The tumor was stage one. We sorta expected worse on the "stage". He is still in the hospital recovering from the surgery, and there will probably be follow-up treatment. But stage one is pretty good news.

Wonderful news on the "salvation" front, too. Meg McDonald was baptized on Wed. night. We have an exceptional group of young folks. They have a devotion to God and to one another, which bodes well for their future. If it takes a "village" to raise a child, what a wonderful impact if the peers are marching toward heaven together. In that vein, Charles and Charlotte Perkins want us to count them as members here, which we're happy to do. Life is good in the kingdom.

We had a wonderful singing yesterday and great lessons from Tony as well. How uplifting things are right now. Let's see how long we can keep it up. Expect Satan to attack, but don't give in to his pressure.

Several out of town this weekend. Greg Williams and family are gone. Probably several others as well. Pray for a safe trip.

Fault Finding

Fault finding is not difficult. Isaac Murray illustrates this in his story on how a dog hitched to a lawn mower stopped pulling to bark at a passerby. The boy who was guiding the mower said, "Don't mind the dog, he is just barking for an excuse to rest. It's easier to bark than to pull."

It is easier to be critical than correct. It's easier to bark than to work, easier to burn a house than to build one, easier to hinder than to help, easier to destroy a reputation than to construct character.

Fault finding is as dangerous as it is easy. Anyone like the Pharisees can grumble, criticize or censure. But it takes a great individual to go on working faithfully and lovingly and rise above criticism. Jesus did!

Author unknown

"Without God in our lives, we build statues of snow then weep when the hot sun and heat of life melts them."

"The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism."

"The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken." (Samuel Johnson)

Assignments for today

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Luke 9:21-22
Scripture Reader.....Trent Miles
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Opening Prayer.....Bob Ward
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

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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