

The REMINDER

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

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GOSPEL RELEVANCY

Is the religion of Jesus Christ relevant in the enlightened, scientific 21st century? The answer is a firm "YES", in the very same way it was relevant in the first century.

While mankind has made tremendous strides in technical and social areas, such advancement is no substitute for the religion of Jesus. Material success has not provided for the spiritual needs of man. The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Nothing has been discovered that will replace the gospel. In fact, material accumulation and intellectual advancement causes many to feel more keenly than ever the need which can only be supplied by the gospel. It IS relevant.

This being true, the next question would logically follow. If the religion of Jesus is relevant today, why do so many question the workability of Christianity?

One answer to the question is given by Jesus, "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil" (John 3:19). Men love the wrong they are doing, and reject anything that stands in opposition. They try to come up with their own remedy, and have no respect for God's will.

A second reason should also be obvious. That which is called "religion" today had nothing to do with Jesus. He never taught it, nor did the apostles. It can't be found in the Bible. People are seeing a substitute for the real thing. For centuries the Catholic church was held up to man as an example of the religion of Christ. Papal power, immorality in high places, indulgences and atrocities of a wide variety were commonplace. Protestantism became the cure for Roman corruption. But in denominational protestantism there are councils, creeds, ecclesiastical oversight and control, and many false doctrines and practices that make it completely antagonistic to the religion of Christ. Both Catholic and Protestantism generally hold the position that there is no objective standard of authority that is unchangeable by man. Both teach "situation ethics" which denies the authority of the New Testament and its relevancy to our age. When people view the practices of these religionists and listen to such teaching, there is no wonder that they question the workability of Christianity.

For one to see what the religion of Christ truly is, he must go to the New Testament, not to any man-made organization. When this is done, and the unadulterated gospel is seen, one may pass judgment on whether or not it is relevant. In the New Testament we find instruction for a proper family relationship, respect for and duty to civil government, an objective, clear-cut moral standard, and above all else, "the word of faith" (Rom. 10:8). This leads to forgiveness and removal of guilt. What is here is certainly relevant. The noble desire and aspiration of man's heart can be filled in no better way than by reconciliation to God and hope of eternal salvation. The religion of Jesus Christ needs to be taught and practiced. It relates to every man and woman.

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve
PM Worship - First Sunday singing - Mark is
in charge of the 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: If things go according to plan, we've been visiting with family and friends all week, so don't know much about what's new in Houston. There are a few updates to the directory:

Michael Krueger email - mikrueg@yahoo.com
Joanna - joannagatza@gmail.com

Nathan and Joycelyn Brown
9898 Forum Park Drive, Apt. 6403
Houston, 77036
Phone - 713-774-0820

Lord willing, Anita and I will be home tomorrow night.

"Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interests wrinkles the soul." (Douglas MacArthur)

"The ideal is in thyself, the impediment too is in thyself."

Assignments for today Sunday, November 3, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Luke 23:39-56
Scripture Reader.....Chad Smith
Opening Prayer.....Matt Miles
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

ABOVE THE LINE THINKING

It's time to turn over a new leaf (it's fall, you know) with a positive focus, and it's challenging. This is meant to make a special effort to stop complaining, blaming others, and keep our thinking "above the line" in spite of disappointments.

1. Be aware. Recognize your typical paths to below the line thinking ~ what (who) sparks the tendency. Minimize your exposure to them (eliminating those "sparks" altogether may not always be realistic or best). Know that when you're negative, it's a complete waste of energy.

2. Be thankful. Regularly reflect on all the good in your life (people, opportunities, things). Understand and enjoy how blessed you really are. Be entitled to nothing.

3. Pause before you speak. Clip the negative as you feel it coming and put a smile or thoughtful statement in its path. Blame no one, not even yourself. Blame nothing.

4. Be accountable. Focus on solving problems rather than having them. Set the example for others and recommit when you slip. Care for yourself and create positive habits.

"If you have not slept, or if you have slept, or if you have a headache, or sciatica, or leprosy or thunder stroke ~ I beseech you, by all angels, to hold your peace and not pollute the morning ~ love the day." (Emerson)

BELLAIRE church of Christ

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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

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