

# The REMINDER

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

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## "WHAT MORE SHALL I SAY?"

The author of Hebrews introduces his readers to the heroes of faith; Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and so forth. Finally in verse 32 he asks, "What more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon..." These stalwarts were amazing in what they faced during the course of their lives, all the while seeking to hold on to a relationship with God based on faith. Even though it is but a capsule, it is stirring to read over verses 33 through 38 of Hebrews 11. Sometimes less is more, and that is exactly what the author is seeking to convey. What more could he say?

Those mentioned in Heb. 11 are truly giants of the faith. They serve well as "a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us..." Looking back to them, we should be challenged to embrace a like mind set and "lay aside every encumbrance, and the in which so easily entangles us, and run with endurance the race that is set before us." While we look back to these individuals as an example, it should be noted that they were not perfect; they had struggles and failures. No doubt they did not see themselves as empowering countless others with respect to following the pathway of faith. They overcame difficulties and placed their hope squarely on the God of Heaven. Whenever I read Heb. 11, I can't help but come away with new appreciation of the struggles of life, but with an eye on God no matter what we may face. It can be overcome.

Yet there is another thought that comes to mind. We are blessed to have individuals who today also are stalwarts of the faith once delivered. We just need to take the time to open our eyes and appreciate them for the examples set forth. Paul noted, "Be imitators of me, just as I am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). As I look at those who are modern day "heroes of faith," I recognize they have feet of clay and at times come up short of the mark, but they have a resolve to continue on "by faith", and I thank God for their example.

A cavalcade of images dance in my mind as I think back on so many who have had an impact on my spiritual growth. How long is your list of individuals and couples who have sacrificed for the Lord's cause? Name them. Make a list. "For time will fail me if I tell..." These are real people, just like the list in Heb. 11 or Romans 16. What wonderful examples.

Take a moment to look around and see how blessed we are by God and the people He brought into our life. Daily we have the opportunity to interact, to learn and grow from them. Are they perfect? No, but they are walking by faith. Are you?

Bruce Evans

# Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Jack - "God Builds Character"  
PM Lesson - Steve - "Getting Even"

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:** I spoke with Jim on Saturday noon. His brother-in-law is still critical. Some of the infection has responded to treatment, but there seems to be a new one. They're going to try to remove him from the breathing machine later today. That's a critical step, to see if he can breathe on his own. We should know more by today.

I guess the big news is how many are out of town today. Barbara is in Branson, Mo. Sharon is in Costa Rica. Connie is in Pensacola, Melody is in Centerville. David, Bill, Alex and Jay are camping/hiking in the Big Bend area. Those are the ones I know about. Other congregations will be blessed with their attendance. Steve and Muffy are here today, but next weekend Steve will be in Memphis for a meeting. Sure leaves a big hole when all these folks are gone.

Check the teachers/classes list on the bulletin board. A new quarter begins in December and we need some volunteers.

## Gossip Wounds Deeply

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). Before relating something that may be harmful, ask the following questions: Is it necessary that I tell this? Will it profit me or him about whom I am speaking? Have I considered every possible angle? An earnest endeavor to answer these queries may check the flow of harmful words.

1. GOSSIP WOUNDS. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." "All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt." (Prov. 18:8; 26:22; Psa. 41:7)
2. GOSSIP SEPARATES FRIENDS. "He that covers a transgression seeks love: but he that repeats a matter separates very friends." "A whisperer separates chief friends." (Prov. 17:9; 16:28).
3. GOSSIP SOWS STRIFE AND DIGS UP EVIL. "An ungodly man digs up evil; and in his lips there is a burning fire." (Prov. 16:27)
4. GOSSIP ENSNARES THE GOSSIPERS OWN SOUL. "A fool's mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his own soul." (Prov. 18:7)
5. GOSSIP IS CLASSED WITH THE WORST OF EVIL. Read Romans 1:29-30.
6. GOSSIP IS DANGEROUS. "He that goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flatters with his lips." (Prov. 20:19).

### Assignments for today

Sunday, November 10, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers  
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge  
Scripture Reading.....Luke 24:6-7, 19-21  
Scripture Reader.....Austin Miles  
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

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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