

# The REMINDER

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

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## A FANATIC FOR CHRIST

The word "fanatic" is one of the ugly words in the English language. No one wants to be a fanatic in any realm (unless it's sports, where we shorten it to "fan"), nor does any one want to be called a fanatic.

The word "fanatic," however, is a relative term. Its meaning is: "A person affected by excessive enthusiasm, especially on religious subjects. One's concept of a fanatic, then, depends on his concept of what is *excessive* enthusiasm in contrast to what is *proper* enthusiasm.

All of the Bible characters whom we truly admire would be looked upon by the world today as fanatics. Consider Daniel as he placed his appointment to high office in jeopardy by refusing the kings meats and the wine which he drank; or Paul as he travelled over the world, having "no certain dwelling place," and even giving up certain God-given rights, that he might effectively fulfill his role as apostle to the Gentiles; or Abraham as he prepared to offer to the Lord his only son, believing (though it had never happened before) that God was able to raise him from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19); or Noah; or Peter; or Timothy, etc.

In contrast with these, there were the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-22). They were not fanatics; they had found the happy medium; "neither cold nor hot." No doubt the world of today - and many Christians I fear - would look on them with favor; but the Lord said, "I will spue thee out of my mouth."

The Lord's expectations of His people today are no different from those of 1900 years ago. He still demands, "But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." (Matt. 6:33); and further, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

These scriptures do not allow half-hearted service; they demand 100% service in the Lord's cause. The person who obeys them will not be a fanatic in the Lord's sight, but in the sight of the world he will be a fanatic. The conclusion is inescapable. To please the Lord one must become a fanatic in the eyes of the world - a fanatic for Christ.

Bill Hall

# Bulletin Board

## Sermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "We Would See Jesus"  
PM Worship - 1st Sunday singing - Lee 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:** December, already? And the year is almost gone. It's been exciting and profitable. We should be thankful, and look forward to doing and being better next year, if we see such. We're a year closer to eternity. That should be sobering.

Don't have much news. We still have many out of town. Some coming home today. Our prayers for their safety.

Several of our young ladies are close to their delivery date (new babies). Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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*"In this season of the year the person who preaches economy might begin by saving their breath."*

*"One part of knowledge consists in being ignorant of such things as are not worth knowing."*

*"What can't be done by advice can often be done by example."*

## Which Way Are We Headed?

If we are trying to go to heaven and take everybody with us that we can, we will have to place truth above the desire for peace and progress.

*Truth must have priority over friendship.* Differences are unpleasant. Truth is more important. It is not a friendly act to compromise truth. Doesn't show respect for God or our friends.

*Truth must have priority over courtesy.* John sets the limitations of courtesy where truth is involved, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed..." (2 John 10-11)

*Truth must have priority over peace, unity, fellowship.* These are most desirable. It is a shame we can't enjoy unity more. But unity is a result more than a goal. It follows conformity to truth as naturally as night follows day. "If we walk in the light...we have fellowship..." (1 John 1:7)

The notion that we should sacrifice truth to keep peace or courtesy or friendship means we have denied allegiance to the God of truth.

adapted from an article by W.E. Brightwell

*"Life is a one way street and we're not coming back."*

## Assignments for today

Sunday, December 1, 2013

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Jesse Knapp  
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Scripture Reading.....John 10:7-18  
Scripture Reader.....Zach Kelsey  
Opening Prayer.....Samuel Camp  
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Knapp

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith  
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Knapp

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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