

# The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

December 8, 2013

Number 49

## THE BIBLE'S POWER TO BUILD

We do not doubt for one moment the Bible's inspiration. Neither do we question its inerrancy. Yet our obvious neglect of this book reveals our apparent distrust of the Bible's usefulness. Like Timothy, we need to be reminded that holy scripture, inspired of God, "is profitable" (2 Tim. 3:16). God's word is still "quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). His gospel remains "the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16).

Paul emphasizes the Bible's usefulness in issuing his closing commendation to the Ephesian elders: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

*The Bible builds us up in times of temptation.* If we intend to defeat Satan in battles of temptation, we must use "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God". This effective method was used by David and by our Lord. Satan flees from the presence of God's word. A wise soldier would not dare enter battle unarmed, without adequate weaponry. Just so, the wise child of God will not face the "fiery darts" of Satan unprepared (Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:11; Matt. 4:1ff).

*The Bible builds us up in times of sorrow and bereavement.* "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope". "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess 4:18). When our hearts are brought low by the sorrows of life, we look with comfort to the safe shelter of divine promise. God has promised to be our shepherd, to bear our burdens, to care for us, to be with us and to prepare a better place for us. (Psa. 23; 55:22; I Pet. 5:7; Matt. 28:20; John 14:1ff). There is no real comfort in the bottle, whether of alcohol or pills. For the child of God, true comfort comes only from the true and lasting book of God.

*The Bible builds us up in times of spiritual dearth.* Greater, stronger faith is built upon the foundation of greater Bible knowledge (Rom. 10:17). When we stumble in our walk with God, His book shows us the way up. It encourages strength and maturity by showing examples of others who have fallen and yet come back stronger. It also shows us the perfect example of Jesus (I Pet. 2:21). Our starving souls would do well to feast on the Bible!

This book which sits on our shelves collecting dust is the key to life. As Christ, the chief corner stone, was rejected and ignored, being discarded by religious builders of his day, so is the Bible today. "Oh, how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psa. 119:97).

selected article

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Why Are You So Angry?"

PM Lesson - Jack - "Contemporary Worship - A Counterfeit Gem"

**NEWS AND NOTES:** We've had several out lately because of some virus making the rounds. The Kelsey's were out Wed night with this problem. Katie Howell was also sick. Kale was sick Wed. night and Zara stayed home with him. Others are suffering with seasonal problems, allergies and flu. Please keep these folks in your prayers. Brandon Noonan's mom has surgery for cancer last week. The results were more serious than doctors had anticipated. Keep this family in your prayers. John Neff's mom began her new round of chemo treatments last week. Both these women are the mothers-in-law of Karen and Harrison's daughters.

Several out of town this weekend. Scott and Charlotte are in St. Thomas for a few days. I expect it will be warmer there than here. Sharon Alexander and Barbara McDonald are in Europe for a week. I expect it will be colder there than here. Several others are out of town or leaving shortly. Lauren Perkins, Sarah Acton, come to mind, but can't remember the details. David and Josie have also been gone. We sure are a busy bunch.

And with the Christmas holiday just around the corner, many more will be travelling. Please keep these people in your prayers.

## God's People In The Wrong Place

"But Peter followed him afar off into the high priest's palace and went in and sat with the servants to see the end" (Matt. 26:58). Environment plays an important part in the kind of person we are. A potted plant belongs in a greenhouse, not in an icehouse. There are environments that are as disastrous to Christians as the frigid temperature to the potted plant. Avoid such places at all costs. Nothing offsets the dangers to the soul.

It is doubtful if Peter would have denied the Lord had he not been in the wrong place. He warmed himself at the fire with the servants of the enemies of his Lord. When they questioned him about his discipleship, he did not have the courage to confess, but chose instead to deny the Lord. If Peter could have seen the result of being in the wrong place, he would most assuredly have stayed away from the fire, even though it might have meant actually suffering from the cold. What he must have suffered in remorse because of his denial can't be compared to a little physical inconvenience.

As a general guideline for our behavior, if a place is questionable, it probably isn't safe. Most Christians are careful of their physical health. Unless absolutely necessary, they will not put themselves in the vicinity of a highly infectious disease. Why not use the same reasoning in a spiritual way?

Peter overcame the denial of the Master; but you may be sure the scar of that sin was carried in Peter's mind as long as he lived. You may overcome the sins that are brought about by being in the wrong place, but the shame of sin will remain, along with the sorrow. Best to avoid that altogether if we can.

selected article

### Assignments for today

Sunday, December 8, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Jesse Knapp  
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge  
Scripture Reading.....John 12:32-33  
Scripture Reader.....Michael Krueger  
Opening Prayer.....Ryan Renz  
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Knapp

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson  
Opening Prayer.....John Moon  
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Knapp

## 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