

The REMINDER

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

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BALANCE IN LIFE

The Bible is filled with exhortations about balance in life. Jesus grew, "In wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). He was not just a spiritual man, but one well rounded. In life there is always a balance. We reap what we sow. We are judged as we judge.

This principle in worship. The more we bring to worship, the more we get from it. When we come to services there are at least three wrong ways in which we may come. 1) *We may come entirely to get.* If we come in such a way the likelihood is that we will criticize practically everything involved. We will find ourselves regarding the whole service as a performance laid on for our entertainment. We must come to give as well as receive. Worship is an individual act paying homage to God, and each of us contributes something to it. 2) *We may come without expectation.* Our coming may be the result of habit. It may be out of a sense of debt. We "owe" God so much time each week. No one ever came into the presence of Jesus without receiving something. It may have been a blessing, healing, encouragement, reproof or condemnation. We should come to worship expecting something. 3) *We may come without preparation.* Sunday mornings can be so rushed. We can make it to work by 8 am, but 10 on Sunday is too early. Can't find our shoes, our Bibles or our children. Plans have to be made for lunch and the afternoon. We've made no plans for our heart and mind to worship.

This principle in study. The more study we give to any subject, the more we get from it. Accomplishments give pleasure or satisfaction in proportion to the effort we are prepared to spend on them. How can we be "bored" with Bible study? Maybe we've spent so little time learning. We don't appreciate it's relevance to our present need. We don't expect to find some "little gem" that will change our outlook. Paul's admonition to Timothy should mean much to us: "Give diligence to present yourself approved unto God, a workman what needs not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

This principle in personal relationships. One of the interesting observations about others is that they tend to mirror ourself. If we are impatient, irritable and bad tempered, we usually find others equally unpleasant. If we are critical and faultfinding, the chances are we will find other people the same. If we are suspicious and distrustful, it is likely we will find others to be so. If we want others to love us, we must first learn to love them. The man who would have friends must show himself friendly (Prov. 18:24).

There are many unhappy people in this world, including many members of the church. Much of this unhappiness is due to the unbalanced life they are living. Expecting to receive without giving is not realistic. It would be good for all of us to take a look at our lives concerning our expectations. Maybe we haven't lived this unbalanced life so long we expect to change with no effort.

Bulletin Board

Sermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - What Makes It the "Lord's" Supper?
PM Lesson - Steve - He Was Born, Not To Live, But To Die

There Is A Difference...

Between being sorry for sin and being sorry you were "caught."

Between confessing your sins and confessing some other person's.

Between seeing your own faults and seeing some other persons.

Between being led by the Holy Spirit and being led by your own imagination.

Between being persecuted for "righteousness sake" and being persecuted for "foolishness sake."

Between "contending for the faith" and striving for your own opinions.

"It is better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterward."

"Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three - all they have had, all they have now and all they expect to have."

"America has lots of problems today. One of them is that 'crisis' fits in a headline better than 'problem.'"

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: Welcome home to our college students. Weston and Austin (Caldera) have left for the holiday to be with their families. But our "local" girls are back, at least for a little while.

We've had quite a number out sick with some respiratory virus. This one seems to take a couple of weeks to clear up. Hope it's the worst problem we have this winter. Nathan took a fall last week, and is sporting some bandages. Trust he is feeling better.

With the Christmas season on us, both Steve and I will be gone on the 29th. Harrison will present one of the lessons on that day. Alex will do the other. Don't think they've decided yet who will do morning and who will do evening. I appreciate their willingness to help in this situation.

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must be overcome first."

Assignments for today

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....David Gorski
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....John 15:13-14
Scripture Reader.....David Gorski
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Scott Clanton
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

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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