

The REMINDER

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

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STIR IT UP

It was a "Beetle Bailey" cartoon. Plato remarks, "Life is like a swizzle stick." Beetle comments, "How's that?" The response is, "You're born...you live...you die...but it's a drag if you don't stir things up a bit." Some are better at stirring things up than others, but most of us hate boredom.

"But when they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, 'These men who have upset the world have come here also'" (Acts 17:6) The men referred to are Paul and Silas, and it is safe to say they had indeed stirred things up. The agitation was brought about by the simple preaching and teaching the truth about Jesus and His being the Christ. The word "agitate" carries with it an implied meaning of "to upset emotionally; to arouse public interest." That's exactly what Paul and Silas did in Thessalonica.

So, are you a swizzle stick, stirring things up a little? Not by being some malcontent or uncaring trouble maker, but by being a voice crying out amid the cacophony of falsehood that is found in the world. Boldly speaking forth the glad tidings of Jesus, the crucified King.

To be sure, the truth of the gospel will provoke people. It will cause discomfort for people to be faced with the glaring fact that they are sinners in the eyes of God, and as such, lost. Most will become agitated, and from emotion reject the message and perhaps even the messenger. But there will be those with a heart that is open and receptive to the Truth of God's word (Luke 8:1-15; Matt. 12:23).

In the first chapter of Peter's first epistle he speaks openly about the seed being the Word of God, and that it is imperishable. Inasmuch as the seed is still vibrant and capable of producing, there is the need for members of the body of Christ to plant the seed. Without such there can be no harvest. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37f). That is exactly what Paul and Silas were doing when they were accused of "stirring things up."

It seems as though we have lost the "swizzle stick" mentality in the body of Christ as relates to teaching the whole truth. We have become content with being keepers of the fish tank rather than being fishers of men. There are any number of cliches that could be inserted to this point, suffice to say we have to be about the work of planting the seed, aware of the fact that it may be indeed cause others to be agitated. But that isn't necessarily a bad thing. "I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance, for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God..." (2 Cor. 7:9).

Wouldn't it be a drag not to stir things up?

Bruce Evans

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Handling A Broken Heart."

PM Lesson - Jack - "Right or Wrong"

Truth's Narrow Door

Jesus said, "Strive to enter in by the narrow door" (Luke 13:24). Truth is always narrow. This is true of all truth. Two plus two equals four. Of all the answers that might be given as the sum of two plus two, only one is correct. A person who accepts the correct answer is necessarily "narrow-minded" - just as narrow in mind as the truth. Religious truth is also narrow. Whatever Christ teaches is truth and however "broad-minded" one might be, it will not change that fact. One's mind should be only broad enough to accept whatever is true and it should be narrow enough to exclude whatever is not truth. When two things contradict, one or both are false. Truth does not contradict itself. The man who tries to accept all teaching in religion as "all right" if sincerely believed, would be a fool if he so acted in any other realm. Why does religion make it different?

Earl Kimbrough

"It is a poor sermon that gives no offense, that neither makes the hearer dissatisfied with himself nor with the preacher."

"The next thing we know somebody in Washington will be trying to beautify and widen the Straight and Narrow path, and that's not a government job."

(This was written 60 years ago, and has come to pass in the last 20 years with political correctness.)

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: Most of us received an email last week from Jay. He and Megan are parents of a baby girl, Caroline. I'm sure many are willing to share details with you. There is a meal list sign-up sheet on the board for the Martin family. Won't be long before we have a whole new crop of babbies. What wonderful and exciting times.

Several have been suffering from whatever virus is going around. Anna is down again with respiratory difficulties.

This being the holiday week, we have a large number who will be out of town. Don't know for sure who all will be gone, or when exactly everyone is leaving. Please be safe on your trips. We long to be back together in a week or two. Since so many will be gone, Wed. night we will worship in song. Sure hope we have some leaders present.

"Many people are as lazy as they can afford to be, but not as lazy as they want to be."

Assignments for today

Sunday, December 22, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jesse Knapp
Hymn Director.....Matt Miles
Scripture Reading.....John 19:1-21
Scripture Reader.....Terry Walker
Opening Prayer.....Bob Ward
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Knapp

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
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