

# The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXIII

January 5, 2014

Number 1

## PEACE IN THE MIDST OF STRIFE

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee (Isa. 26:3-4).*

Looked at from any view-point life appears to be a struggle. Struggles in relationships. "Why can't we all get along?" I don't know, perhaps because we're all different. Some sane, some not. Struggles with "things," which insist on breaking. Life is a constant repair project. Spiritual struggles. Our faith isn't what we want it to be. We love God, trust Him, but have trouble being as close to Him as we want. Struggles with physical problems. Life is good, but sometimes it's hard.

When we look at the problems, we're confused by the promise of perfect peace we see here and other places. How can we talk of the "peace that passes understanding" when all of life and nature appear to be a life and death fight?

First, understand what the prophet and the Lord promise. Not perfect health. No one lives forever. Disease and death come to all. To some sooner, to some later. We are never promised that things won't break. Cars, houses, any material possession will fail sooner or later. Maintenance is one of the facts of life if you "own" anything. We're never promised perfect harmony with anyone. We aren't harmonious, nor are others. Most of us are depressed in life and sometimes angry at God because we think He promises relief from all anxieties. What He promises is the ability to cope with distress **IF** our mind is centered on Him. A new and different way of looking at this world and any situation we find ourselves in.

It is significant that these words do not identify the experience of peace with the absence of loss and sorrow, but rather with the presence of God. It is not that we are to be withdrawn from the reach of the influence of these things, but that we are to be drawn into close union with Him. The rich things of life may be ours, relationships, possessions, etc. But the one indispensable thing is God. He is permanent, all else on earth is temporary.

It's hard to explain this. That's why it is described as "the peace that passes understanding." You don't have to understand in order to receive. "Thou" will keep...All we have to do is be "stayed" on God and "trust" Him. The peace is a by-product. Most of our confusion and anxiety is caused by misunderstanding. We misunderstand the promise and we misunderstand the author of the peace. We lean too much on things and self. Not enough on God.

JLS

# Bulletin Board

## Food For Thought

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Going Forward".  
PM Worship - First Sunday singing - Robert is  
in charge

**NEWS AND NOTES:** It seems strange to be looking at another new year. Last year was great in so many ways. I hope and pray this one is better, spiritually, physically, and in every way. Let's grow closer to the Lord and to each other.

We still have several battling the "flu". This one is difficult to overcome. Terry Walker has been out for a while. The Knapps were out Wed. night The Pharris family has had several "strains" of it. Jan emailed us from Illinois about her nephew, Travis. He's been battling cancer for quite a while. He has been "functional", in that he can still work, but has a tumor in a new site. Keep him and family in your prayers.

Thanks to God for safe travel over the holiday season. Hopefully we're all home now. Thanks to Alex and Harrison for covering the lessons last Sunday, and to Jesse for doing the Bible class. It's great to have such talent and willingness.

Also received an email from Lori Knapp. Her mother passed away last week in Dallas. Don't know any details, but Lori is up there with her sister taking care of details.

An unbeliever once went to a minister and said to him, "I know you are a man of common sense and frankness. I have listened to your sermons and know you will give a man a straightforward answer. Do you believe I have a soul?"

The minister replied, "Yes, I do."

"Well," answered the man, "that is an extraordinary thing for a man of your ability to think. I've studied on this, and have read of the elements that make up a man. So much water, so much iron, so much carbon." He went on to enumerate the ingredients that make up a man. "Where does the soul come in?"

The minister declined to argue any further.

The man said, "That's just what I expected. When you cannot meet an argument, you quit."

"But," said the minister, "I am a reasonable man, and as such I must decline to hold discussions with so many quarts of water, so much iron, so much carbon." Thus the minister answered the fool according to his folly. (Don't you just love it when a preacher is the hero of the story.)

*Jesus died about 2000 years ago, yet no one ever refers to Him as "the late Jesus." Not the heathens. Nowhere in history. Nowhere has He ever been referred to in the past tense!*

### Assignments for today

Sunday, January 5, 2014

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Bob Ward  
Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson  
Scripture Reading.....Acts 2:22-24, 36  
Scripture Reader.....Mitchell Howell  
Opening Prayer.....Johnny Martinez  
Closing Prayer.....Bob Ward

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey  
Closing Prayer.....Bob Ward

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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