

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXIII

February 2, 2014

Number 5

ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:1-2).

The force of zeal can be a tremendous power for good or evil, depending on the guiding principles of right and wrong. Religious history is filled with examples of corruption brought about by misguided people. Thinking they were serving God, they instead served the devil. Zeal is like the mighty force that propels a multi-ton rocket into space, but without the guidance system this power would be utterly wasted or tremendously destructive. So it is with the one who has religious zeal but who lacks the knowledge of the Word of God.

In the letter to the church at Laodicea, recorded in Rev. 3:19, Jesus said to this apathetic group, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." This requirement to be zealous is demanded of all who serve the Lord acceptably. But this zeal necessitates a knowledge of God's will. In Romans 10:3 the Lord says, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God." Ignorance of God's righteousness does not stifle zeal, but simply allows it to be misguided.

Secondly, it will be noticed from this passage that if one is ignorant of God's righteousness, zeal will cause the one who possesses it to establish his own style of righteousness. In other words, he will create his own religion based on the power of zeal without a knowledge of God's will. We should also note that those who have zeal without knowledge will not submit to God. There are probably many reasons for this. Maybe God's ways are too slow, not modern enough or don't "make sense" to them.

The apostle described himself before he obeyed the truth as, "Circumcised on the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee, concerning zeal, persecuting the church..." (Phil. 3:5-6). This is zeal without knowledge which the apostle acknowledged to be opposing God.

The correct combination of zeal, knowledge, maturity, caution and all the other qualities that make up a working servant of the Lord is difficult to attain. It can't be found in the immature, but if we wait till age overtakes us and we have made no start, we still won't have the experience. Perhaps this warning from Paul is a good place to start. When the desire to serve God first forms within us we need to act on it, but not in a misdirected way. Be cautious that we know what God thinks about our intended action. Read, study, work.

Zeal without knowledge is dangerous. Knowledge without zeal is useless. Let us prepare ourselves to serve God, then serve Him with all our resources.

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Seven Steps to a Better
Life"

PM Worship - First Sunday singing - Michael
Robinson 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: Several "minor" ailments
continue to plague us. Kristi was out Wed. night. Josie
also has been suffering from congestion. So far, though,
we're doing pretty well.

The Garretts and Miles are in Tampa for the FC lectures.
Also visiting their girls. Megan Moon is out of town on
business for a few days. Don't know of any others, but
there are usually several. Richard and Jan are reportedly
on their way home. It will be nice to see them again.

The Harkriders are moving. They were honest about
being "temporary" members. They had planned to buy a
house in northwest Houston, in the Tomball area. Should
be moving this week. We'll sure miss them.

Check the bulletin board for meetings and singing an-
nouncements.

*"It's a shame that a mirror can't make us see our-
selves as we really are."*

What Kind of "Complex"?

David tried to rear his son Adonijah without any "no's."
"And his father had not displeased him at any time in
saying, Why have you done this?" (1 Kings 1:6). A study
of Adonijah's life as recorded in 1 Kings will reveal the
neurotic misfit that resulted.

Telling a child "no" will not give him a complex, but letting
him grow without restriction will certainly do just that. A
child needs many things from his parents. Two of the
more important are a sense of direction - a pointing
toward God - and some guideposts to keep him on the
road. These guideposts must include some "do not's" as
well as some "do's." Christian parents will find the basis
for both affirmative and negative commands in God's
Word. The child without such restraint has no means of
learning except by his own trial and error, which makes
the road doubly long and difficult.

Parents today are trying, like David, to rear a child
without any "no's", and are similar to a person who would
turn a pet canary loose in the outside world and expect it
to survive. The world our children must live in has many
"no's". Obedience to these is a necessary prerequisite for
successful living in it. When we "turn a child loose" who
has no respect for a negative command, we can expect
him to fail.

Avanelle Baird

Assignments for today

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Matt Miles
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Acts 20:18-28
Scripture Reader.....Chad Smith
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
Opening Prayer.....Terry Walker
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

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