

The REMINDER

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

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THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR

"Good understanding gives favor: but the way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15). The consequences of sin are real and most persistent. Esau sold his birthright and later repented of having done so, but what was done was done. He was unable to regain it, even with tears. He had to deal with the consequences of his mistake. The way of the transgressor is hard. Down through the years the number of those who should have learned this lesson are legion.

Repentance does not remove consequences. A drunken driver may truly repent of injuring or killing some innocent person. And God can forgive him if he seeks forgiveness according to God's Will. But he must then face up to the future and the consequences of his act. The injured person may never recover. The family must deal with the loss for the rest of their life. The offender must live with his mistake for a lifetime, even though God has forgiven him. As David said one time after God had forgiven him, "My sin is ever before me."

Paul could never forget that he had persecuted the church of the Lord, even though he knew God had forgiven him. The pain of being "the chiefest of sinners" would never leave his mind. Can you imagine this champion of the Cross having to live with the thought that many had lost, not their lives, but their souls because of his actions.

Christians, young and old, make many foolish mistakes, and some of these have long term consequences. At times, like Paul, we do so in good conscience, then learn our actions were wrong. Sometimes we act out of stubborn wilfulness. We injure self, family and the church. Since we've all make mistakes (sinned), we should view others with compassion and understanding, and welcome the returning prodigal with open arms. But the consequences remain. We may have "flashbacks" of regret the rest of our lives from foolish or stubborn mistakes. The way of the transgressor is hard. Let us learn from all the Biblical examples of this, as well as all we have seen in the lives of our contemporaries.

The good news: repentance and forgiveness does remove guilt. Though the results of our foolish actions may remain, the guilt doesn't. How I wish we could keep this in mind when Satan reminds us of our past. Through obedience to the commands of the gospel, the blood of Jesus pays the price for our mistakes. We don't face eternal consequences any more. They are gone. We are redeemed. Cement this in your mind and heart. Let us be filled with gratitude to God for this blessing. Now, let us act like the redeemed.

Share with friends and neighbors the joy of our salvation. Let us communicate the lessons we should learn. Tell the world that the "pleasure of sin for a season" is followed by a terrible aftertaste. But stress the joy of the hope of heaven. Stop acting like we deserve that hope because of superior lives and shout about the Christ for died for us and lives to make intercession. What a wonderful experience, being a Christian. How a sinsick world needs this message. **"The way of the transgressor is hard." But "Good understanding gives favor."**

JLS

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "The Blessings of Redemption".

PM Lesson - Jack - "A Good Man"

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: Curby remains in St. Luke's in the Medical Center. He has his pacemaker replaced, and is to have some tests run. Keep him and Melva in your prayers. Pat is home from the hospital. She was having difficulty with her heart. Medicine seems to be helping keep it regulated. Megan Moon's grandfather is taking treatment for stage 4 cancer. Please pray for the family. Linda was out Wed. night with bronchitis. Hope to see her today. Also, please remember Twila Reeves. She and husband Bill worshipped here several years ago.

Be sure to update the directory on the table. Hope to have a new one ready shortly.

The funeral for Brett Noonan will be Tues night at Settegast-Kopf located at 15015 SW Freeway (Williams Trace exit in Sugarland). Visitation from 5 till 7. Funeral service at 7:30. Brett is the brother of Brandon, who is Harrison and Karen's son-in-law.

"God doesn't expect extraordinary things - He just expects us to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

Assignments for today

Sunday, January 13, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Dan Kimbrough
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....2 Cor. 13:4
Scripture Reader.....Rudy Black
Opening Prayer.....David Gorski
Closing Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough

ALONE

If one walks in the way of truth and conviction, he must be prepared to walk alone. "No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves. Noah built and voyaged alone - his neighbors laughed at this strangeness and perished in style. Lot wandered and worshipped alone - Sodomites smiled at the simple man, followed the fashion and fed the flames. Daniel dined and prayed alone. Jesus lived and died alone.

On the lonely way his disciples should walk, Jesus said: "Straight is the gate and narrow the way which leads to life and few there be that find it." Of their treatment by men who walk in the broad way, Jesus said: "If you were of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, therefore the world hates you." Peter later stated that because the multitude went in "pernicious ways the way of truth would be evil spoken of.

The people in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The people under the kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets. The people under Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The people under the popes praised the Savior and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, in the church and in the world, applaud the courage of the patriarch and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness, like faithfulness today.

BELLAIRE church of Christ

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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