

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

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Number 4

"IF IT BE POSSIBLE..."

"as much as in you lies, be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18). Peace is not always possible. It depends on more than "as much as in you lies." The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable (James 3:17). We must pursue peace and sanctification..." (Heb. 12:14). Peace with men must stem from peace with God. Without the latter the former is worthless. Seeing that his message of peace would be rejected by many, Jesus said, "I come not to send peace but a sword" (Matt. 10:34).

Compromisers of the faith are given too much honor when they are described as seeking "peace at any price." The real objection to them is not that they are willing to pay too much for peace, but that they are not willing to pay enough. Unwilling to pay the price of genuine peace, they settle for a counterfeit.

Peace must sometimes be attained through struggle (Gal. 2:3-5; Jude 3). Elijah was not the "troubler of Israel"; Ahab as (I Kings 18:17f). Ahab was the disturber of Israel's peace and Elijah was a great peacemaker whose war on Baalim was aimed at restoring peace to the nation.

Even in the midst of a struggle for faith we must show ourselves peacemakers, not lovers of strife. "And the Lord's servant must not strive, but be gentle towards all, apt to teach, forbearing, in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves..." (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

It is human ambition that leads to strife and war (James 4:1-3). We must not crucify the Lord again, but we can certainly sacrifice ourselves for the sake of peace. A unity that cost the blood of Christ to establish is worth some pain on our part to preserve (Eph. 4:1-3). Let us never wage war unnecessarily. "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit... So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another (Rom. 14:17f). Follow Paul as he followed Christ in this - "even as I also please all men in all things (I Cor. 10:32-11:1). Peace is made by teaching the healthful doctrine that produces sound spiritual health and avoiding the foolish speculation that genders strife. We do "as much as in us lies" to "be at peace with all men" when we are willing to suffer personal injury, leaving vengeance to the Lord and returning good for evil. In fact we make peace by means of the conquest of evil with good (Rom. 12:18ff). If battling for the faith is sometimes necessary, let us learn from James 1:18 that it is "in peace" that "the fruit of righteousness is sown for - or by - them that make peace," and avoid acquiring taste for war.

A son of God cannot be a warmonger. You must be a peacemaker if you want "the God of peace" to acknowledge you as a son of His.

L.A. Mott

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Pursuing Holiness"

PM Lesson - Jack - "Phariseeism - The Problem With Being Us"

NEWS AND NOTES: We've had several struggling lately with some serious issues. It was great to see Curby and Melva last Sunday. He seems to be doing much better. Pat was here last Sunday, but continues to have problems keeping her heart rate regulated. She has a doctors appointment this week, and perhaps can get some help. Sharon Benthall's mother has also been having serious pain issues lately. Sharon Alexander's daughter had "minor" surgery last week, and Sharon was in Dallas with her. There are probably others who need a mention in our prayers. Listen to the announcements today to get the complete list.

Several are out of town. The Mann's and Howell's are gone, but should be headed home today. Chad is out of town, and should be back tomorrow. Our prayers are for all who are "on the road" (or in the air) that they make it back safely.

New directories are on the table, and on our website as well.

Much progress on the new sign this week (and on removing the old one). Thanks for the help with chipping away the concrete yesterday.

The Harvest Mouse

Every year in the harvest fields of England there are thousands of little tragedies. The victims are those charming little creatures, the harvest mice.

Early in the year the growing corn seems to them the ideal place in which to settle and bring up a family. The forest of innumeraqble corn stalks is their whole world. In it they court and mate and play and bring up their families. Their happiness seems complete - until the harvest.

When the day comes for the owner of the field to reap his harvest, tragedy inevitably strikes the mouse house. The fields which he thought were his world never really belonged to him at all. The field mouse was deceived because for months he was left to his own devices. He never saw the owner of the field, and naturally he knew nothing about the coming harvest.

Many people allow themselves to be deceived because God, the owner of the world, does not put in an occasional appearance. Thus man imagines the field belongs to him and that there is no such thing as an eventual harvest.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:31f)

Assignments for today

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....Phil. 3:10-11, 17-21
Scripture Reader.....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

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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