

The REMINDER

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

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Number 24

COMPLETE RELIGION

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:5) What is religion? To that question the world today returns three answers: 1) Religion consists in *thinking*. This is the answer of the psychologist. 2) Religion consists in *feeling*. This is the answer of the emotionalist. 3) Religion consists in *acting*. This is the answer of the sociologist. The mistake here is that each one considers his own answer complete in itself, whereas the Bible teaches all three. Look at a couple of passages.

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet (thinking), moved with fear (feeling), prepared an ark (acting)" (Heb. 11:7). "If any man thinketh himself to be religious (thinking), while he bridleth not his tongue (acting), but deceiveth his own heart (feeling), this man's religion is vain" (Jas. 1:26). When a man is religious in the New Testament sense, he passes through an experience which is made up of thinking, feeling and acting, and thus gives himself wholly to the service of Christ.

Thinking in Religion - There are some whose religion consists solely in their thoughts. "Here is what I think," you hear from many in matters of religion. This is the standard by which they attempt to prove all things to their satisfaction. You may read the Bible to them and say, "Now this is what the Bible says," but their answer will usually be, "I know, but I think..." Thus they make their own intellect their Bible, and pay very little or no attention to what God's Word teaches.

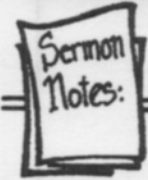
A man is often mistaken in what he thinks is right or wrong. When the nation of Israel first came into the Promised Land and was ruled by judges, often following the death of a judge the nation would forsake God and turn to the idols of their neighbors. Hence, "in those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 17:6). This brought about the downfall of Israel. "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). God is concerned with our thoughts, and tries to instruct us so our motivation is accurate. (Phil. 4:8).

Feeling in Religion - Just as there are some to whom religion is all thinking, so there are others to whom it is all feeling. They think their salvation is based entirely on feeling. They are heard to say, "I know that I'm saved because I feel good." We ought to say, "I feel good because I know I'm saved." Such a feeling is based on having done the will of God. John said, "And hereby we know that we know Him, if we keep his commandments" (I John 2:3).

Solomon said, "He that trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Prov. 28:26). A man may be ever so sincere and yet be ever so sincerely wrong. When Joseph's brothers told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was dead, Jacob said, "I will go down into the grave mourning for my son" (Gen. 37:35). His grief was real, but the truth was, Joseph wasn't dead. Mere feelings can be deceiving.

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Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Steve
PM Worship - New Song Practice

NEWS AND NOTES: Several new to add to our prayer list for the ill. Not members here, but important to us. Caleb Owen, a 9 year old boy from the Pensacola area had developed a melanoma that appears to be serious. He is probably coming to MD Anderson for surgery and possible treatment. Caleb's mom grew up with Connie, and they have been close thru the years. Keep the family in your prayers. Kim Mann's dad has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Don't know yet just where he will seek treatment, but he and family need our prayers. Dora Martinez's neice has surgery on Thursday for treatment of her unborn child. Hope all went well.

Most of "our" children will be home from summer camp, and hopefully well rested by today. We sure missed them. Welcome back to Steve and Muffy. Anita and I are in Pensacola today. I begin a gospel meeting at the East Hill congregation. Anita comes home tomorrow. I plan to drive back on Saturday.

This is the third Sunday. Youth devotion tonight. The women's study is also tonight.

Karen and Harrison are going to be grandparents. Twice. No, it's not twins. Note the smiles on their faces.

Complete Religion (concluded from front)

Acting in Religion - Unless the thoughts and feelings result in action, they will quickly pass and there will be nothing left. Even so in the case of one's coming to Christ, unless his belief and repentance produce further action of obedience, they will speedily fade from the heart and leave him still in sin. Throughout the Scriptures the principle is taught again and again that "faith without works (action) is dead" (James 2:20).

Jesus, in requiring the steps in our conversion, has made it a process of thinking, feeling and acting. "He that believeth" (Mk. 16:16) {Thinking} - "Except you repent" (Luke 13:3) {Feeling} - "And is baptized" (Mk. 16:16) {Acting}. This obedience is not final and complete. Following baptism we are to arise to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mk. 13:13).

Melvin Wise

"Have you ever noticed that people get more tired when they are standing still?"

"Want better answers? Ask better questions."

"If we fed our minds as consistently as we do our mouths, we would become smarter and thinner."

Assignments for today

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Rev. 1:4-7, 18
Scripture Reader.....David Gorski
Opening Prayer.....Curby Stech
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Scott Clanton
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

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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