

# The REMINDER

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

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## RESPECTABLE WORLDLINESS

The most common use of "worldliness" conveys the idea of overt sin - lying, drunkenness, adultery, etc. The Bible explicitly condemns such a life. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Another kind of worldliness, however, is just as prevalent, but is not as easily recognized as the enemy of God. It is the kind of worldliness which is "respectable," for only good things are done (i.e., things that are not considered overt sin). This kind of worldliness involves our jobs, family, recreation, education. All of these material blessings have a proper place in our lives, but each one of them can become sinful if we attach more importance to them than to the service of God (Matt. 6:33).

In a world as "busy" as ours and as "prosperous" as ours, Christians must constantly guard against crowding the Lord out. We may not be drunkards, liars, adulterers, and wouldn't be found in their constant company. But when our lives become so involved with wholesome activities that Christ is pushed aside from the center of our heart, then we are engaged in "respectable" worldliness. How often do we say, "I don't have time...?" We are too busy earning wages, enjoying ball games, or visiting friends, consequently we no longer have time to study and teach the Bible, attend services, visit the sick or restore the fallen. We mean no harm; in fact we say we love the Lord, but our lives demonstrate a misplaced affection.

The blessings of this great nation have become a curse to the spirituality of the church. Take a look at ourselves. We have no time to attend Bible study, we prefer a "sermonette" during the time set aside for teaching. We drive several miles to attend a ball game, but cannot go across town to attend a gospel meeting. We hardly blink an eye at the debt we assume in order to buy a new car or boat, but when it comes to giving to the Lord we look to see "what we can afford."

Respectable worldliness has given us a "ho-hum" attitude to its own evil because it seems good. We all know the drunkard and the liar are doomed to hell unless they repent. We can take "hard" preaching on these topics. But who believes a man will be lost because he worked too many hours making an "honest living" for his family? Will we be condemned for relaxing with family or friends? or for buying a big screen TV?

The answer to these questions is found in the parable Jesus taught in Luke 14:16-24. The people who were forbidden to taste the great supper did not commit any overt act of sin. They were lost over a piece of ground, five yoke of oxen and a new wife. The lesson is simple. Put God first! "For what is a man profited if he would gain the whole world but lose his own soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26)

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Perversions in Religion"  
PM Lesson - Steve - "A Fishing Trip to Remember"

**NEWS AND NOTES:** I arrived home safely yesterday afternoon, so I don't know much "News". Do continue to pray for Caleb's surgery tomorrow. Also remember the expectant mothers. It's an exciting time, but there are always anxieties about a newborn, especially the first one.

The meeting in Pensacola went well, and that is a wonderful congregation with many friends of long standing. While I enjoyed it very much, I'm so glad to return "home" to Bellarie. What a great group we have.

## Jumping to Conclusions

An elderly lady, the self-appointed supervisor of a little rural village's morals, accused a workman of having turned to drink because "with her own eyes" she had seen his truck standing in the parking lot of a tavern. The accused made no defense, but that evening he parked his truck outside her house and left it there all night.

The Bible also has somewhat to say regarding this unholy exercise of "jumping to conclusions." Only the Bible calls it "bearing false witness." 2 Timothy 3:3 refers to such people as false accusers. 1 Tim. 6:4 calls the practice evil surmisings. Rom. 1:30 says they are inventors of evil things and 1 Pet. 4:15 refers to them as busybodies.

Guthrie Dean

## Our Thoughts About Others

Someone has wisely said: "What we think about another may make no difference with regard to our character. We cannot in righteousness always approve the deeds of others, but we can and must feel charitable in our hearts toward him. It is one thing to disagree with a person, or to openly oppose his views and/or action, and another to despise him." Jesus said, "You have heard that it has been said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them that spitefully use you and persecute you." Doing injury to your enemy puts you beneath him; revenge makes you even with him, but forgiving him lifts you above him.

L. R. Hester

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*"Silence is one of the great acts of conversation."*

*"A fool's tongue is always long enough and sharp enough to cut his own throat."*

*"He is no fool who parts with what he cannot keep in order to get that which he shall not lose."*

*"When a little bird tells you something, be sure that bird is not a cuckoo."*

## Assignments for today

Sunday, June 23, 2013

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers  
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams  
Scripture Reading.....Rev. 7:13-17  
Scripture Reader....Terry Walker  
Opening Prayer.....Bob Ward  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann  
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey  
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 Bellarie