

The REMINDER

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

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A MATTER OF CHOICE

God made man a free moral agent. We are creatures of choice. We have the right and the power to choose day to day activities. The power of choice is expressed in the Bible over and over. Both Moses (Deut. 30:19) and Joshua (24:15) put choices before Israel. But the choices they followed had consequences. They would likely make the choice that suited their own desires at the time, that would best serve their interests. But these choice would set in order chains of events that would not be to their liking.

Today we choose each day the kind of life we want to live, the rule of ethics to govern us, the people we wish to associate with. We usually do this out of selfish concern. But when we do, we also set in order chains of events that bring about end products that we may not like. The social drinker does not choose to be an alcoholic, to lose his job, family and friends, nor to have a damaged liver, but all too often that is what he gets. The criminal does not choose to go to jail when he robs or kills, but that's where he winds up.

When the prodigal son left home to enjoy spending his inheritance, he did not intend to end up in the pig pen, starving and friendless, but it was inevitable with that choice he made. Lot chose to pitch his tent toward Sodom because of the personal advantages it held for him and his family. He did not intend to end up on a mountain having sons born by acts of incest with his own daughters. He did not intend to lose his wife and all his possessions in the destruction of Sodom. But all this he did, because "he pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Gen. 13:12).

We do not intend to lose our children when we become too deeply involved in economic and social affairs to love, train and mature them, but that's the end product of the choice. We do not intend to have delinquent, rebellious children when we chose not to discipline them, to teach them respect for God, parents and others.

No one chooses divorce from the beginning, it is a hard, heart rending experience. But that's the end product of self-centered neglect. We all want happy occasions with exciting mates but in our day to day choices we ourselves are not contributing to that end. We blame others when we are at fault. We made choices long ago that resulted in the end product. We like to sow, but we don't like to reap.

Morris Norman

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Follow Me: Don't Sit,
Soak & Sour!"
PM Lesson - Jack - "A Distinct People -
Don't Lose Your Way".

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: Most of us are doing well physically. Anna continues to struggle with her health, but is able to get out a little now. Caleb is doing well after surgery. His test results should be back this week. Pray for his complete recovery.

Richard and Jan are gone for most of the month of July. Mike and Linda are in Dallas this weekend. Several others will be gone on summer trips.

Just a financial note - We're doing well enough to pick up some of the support of Dan Degarmo. Several have known of him and his work for several years now. Hope to have him speak for us before too long. Also, we have to replace one of the A/C units soon.

I mentioned Wed. night that Matt Miles will teach a session on financial matters. This will not be part of our regular Bible classes, but is open to those with a need or interest. See him for details.

If I Had It To Do Over Again

"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established, and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches" (Prov. 24:3).

I would laugh with my children more...at our mistakes and our joys.

I would listen more...even to the youngest child.

I would be more honest about my own weaknesses and stop pretending perfection.

I would pray differently for my family

I would be more encouraging and bestow more praise
I would pay more attention to little things, deeds and words of love and kindness.

Finally, if I had to do it all over again, I would share God more intimately. I would use ordinary things that happened in every ordinary day to point folks to God.

"Most of us get what we deserve, but only the successful will admit it."

"You can do more good by being good than any other way."

"Experience can't make us all leaders. But it should teach us which ones to follow."

"Tolerance is seeing certain things with your heart instead of your eyes."

Assignments for today

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Rev. 5:8-14
Scripture Reader....Johnny Martinez
Opening Prayer.....Greg Williams
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
Opening Prayer.....Matt Miles
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