

The REMINDER

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

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August 4, 2013

Number 31

IT DOES MATTER WHAT YOU THINK

I read in an old bulletin article that, "It doesn't matter what you think, but what God says." I agree that what I think doesn't change the will of God, but what I think usually controls my life, and those influenced by me. It does matter what I think.

Jesus was constantly telling men that their hypocrisy was not hidden from God. Isaiah had told God's people that God knew whether their service was from the heart or not (Isa. 29:13). Jesus said "that which proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles man," and "The things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings..." (Matt. 15:11, 18-19).

The wise man had said long ago: "For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, 'Eat and drink!' but his heart is not with you" (Prov. 23:7). What we think is what we are. We tend to put all the emphasis on what we do; Jesus looks at the reason for the action. Good or evil begins in the heart, the mind. There are many reasons we may never carry out evil or good intentions. Lack of opportunity, laziness, fear, or a hundred other things may prevent us from "being" evil, but God judges the heart.

We may even do good with the wrong motive. In I Cor. 13 Paul says some may sell their goods to feed the poor and not be "profited" because they did not act from love. In Phil. 1 some preached the gospel for the wrong reason, perhaps to cause Paul more jeopardy, perhaps to take his "place." Good must be done, but the motive must be pure as well. God judges the heart.

What kind of thoughts do you have about yourself, what do you "see" yourself doing? What are your thoughts for the church? For others? God knows what kind of people we are because He knows what is in our hearts. We can't "read" minds of hearts, so we judge by actions, "by thier fruits ye shall know them," but fruits indicate what we think. Do our actions indicate that we are thinking about heaven? If we're interested in saving the lost, our actions show that this in our mind. If we're thinking about lives of honesty and integrity, our actions should show it.

Our thoughts, our hearts meditation, are an important part of our faith. They also relate to repentance. Peter told Simon the ex-sorcerer to, "repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray the Lord is perhaps the thought of your heart whall be forgiven you" (Acts 8:22). Not only do we need to repent of evil acts, we need to realize the very attitude of heart which fostered these acts need to be corrected.

Paul's exhortation is much needed today. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are prue, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

JLS

Bulletin Board

Vermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "A Distinct People"
(Part 3)

PM Worship - First Sunday Singing. Michael is in charge

NEWS AND NOTES: There are several to add to our prayer list concerning health issues. Scott Clanton's mother was in the hospital for blood clots. They originated in her leg, but some of the smaller ones have moved to her lungs. She is taking blood thinner to dissolve them. The Miles family has a friend in Dallas (a member at Westside) who is in the hospital there. They request prayers for her. Also, as was mentioned in Mike's email list last week, Curby has been placed on the heart transplant list. Keep these folks in your thoughts.

Many travelling this week. The Clanton's are in San Diego on vacation. The Miles are in New Mexico for a family reunion. There are others. Our prayers for a safe journey and *thanks to God* for watching over all of us in our travels.

WARNING! Bible Usage Can Be Habit Forming...
Regular reading can cause loss of anxiety and fear; decreased appetite for lying, cheating, stealing, hating, anger, jealousy and envy. Symptoms include but are not limited to: increased sense of love, joy, peace, compassion and contentment. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist, Praise the Lord!
copied from the Lincoln Bible Reader

Attitude Counts, Too

Several years ago researchers at Cornell University made a study of a carefully selected group of people. All had similar family backgrounds so far as health and longevity of their kin. Their lifetime experiences were similar. They were divided into two groups: those who were frequently ill and those who were rarely ill.

Psychiatric interviews with each individual revealed that those who were often ill viewed their lives as difficult, demanding and unsatisfactory. The less frequently ill viewed their lives as interesting, varied and relatively satisfying.

The conclusion of the investigators: it's not the magnitude of the problems which life hands us that determines the effect on our physical well-being; it's the way we react to them.

"The highest explosive known is made by combining idle hands and addled minds."

"The secret of bringing up a child properly is in knowing when to give it a big hand - and where."

"You cannot prove your religion or your arguments by their noise."

Assignments for today Sunday, August 4, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....David Gorski
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Matt. 20:17-19, 26-28
Scripture Reader...Samuel Camp
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
Opening Prayer.....Terry Walker
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

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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