

# The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

August 11, 2013

Number 32

## BUT WHAT IF...?

Hypothetical situations are sometimes employed by those who wish to justify their failure to obey the simple and understandable commands of God. However, an examination of the Bible reveals that those who were people of faith, were saved as their faith moved them to obey the precepts of God.

"By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household." "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance." "By faith he (Moses) kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn might not touch them." "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days" (Heb. 11:7, 8, 28, 30).

On the day of Pentecost those who gladly received Peter's words "were baptized" because they were instructed to "repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:41, 38). In Acts eight an Ethiopian eunuch was brought to believe in the Christ and immediately desired to be baptized (v. 35-39). When Saul of Tarsus was convinced that the Jesus whom he persecuted was truly the Christ, he arose and was baptized and washed away his sins calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 9:18; 22:16). When we recall Jesus' words concerning who shall be saved, "he that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk 16:16), we are not surprised that those who learned of Christ *obeyed* his commands in order to receive God's saving grace.

Noah demonstrated his faith in God by preparing the ark, *but what if* Noah had determined that he would be delivered without obeying God? Would he have been saved from the flood? Abraham became the father of a great nation because he obeyed God in leaving his homeland, *but what if* he had stayed at home and trusted (?) God without obeying God's command to leave? Those who put the blood on their doorposts were spared the loss of the firstborn, *but what if* they had failed to put the blood on their doorposts? After marching around the city for seven days, the wall of Jericho fell, *but what if* the children of Israel had refused to march around the city? Remember, it was faith that moved all these *to obey* God's commands.

The first gospel sermon (Acts 2) caused many to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, *but what if* some of these had decided not to obey God's command, believing that faith without baptism would save them? *What if* Saul had decided not to obey the command to arise and be baptized in order that his sins might be washed away?

The point is, "Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of / father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Tommy Poarch

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Fellowship With The  
Light"

PM Lesson - Jack - "The Heart of Wisdom"

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:** We missed Jay and Megan on Wed. night. They had gone to Louisiana for Jay's grandmother's memorial service. Our best to them in this loss, and pray for a safe journey.

Many out of town this weekend. I don't have a complete list, but Chad and LaDonna are in North Carolina. Connie is in Pensacola. Hope all have a great weenend, and a safe journey. Welcome home to all who have been gone. You were truly missed.

Welcome to Sarah Acton, who placed membership with us. Her contact info is: 3303 W. Greenridge Dr. # 12, Houston, 77057. Her phone is 770-880-9850. email is: sarahaacton@yahoo.com

Have you noticed all the young folks who have joined us lately. What a wonderful group when you mix them with us more "mature" members.

*"The first half of life is spent in longing for the second; the second in regretting the first."*

## Everywhere Jesus went...

People marveled at His greatness.

--When He was just an infant, Mary and Joseph marveled at what was spoken of Him (Luke 2:33).

--At twelve, they were amazed at Him as He discussed questions with doctors in the temple (Luke 2:48).

--His hometown synagogue wondered at His gracious words (Luke 4:22).

--The Jews marveled that He knew letters, having never learned (John 7:15).

--The disciples were amazed at His transfiguration (Mark 9:1-5). They were amazed and marveled at His power to do miracles (Matt. 12:23; John 7:21).

--The "multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb speak, the maimed become whole, the lame walk and the blind see: and they glorified the God of Israel" (Matt. 15:31).

--His disciples marveled that His word could wither a living fig tree (Matt. 21:20), that He talked with a Samaritan woman (John 4:27), and that He controlled nature: "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" (Matt. 8:27).

--His followers were amazed at His teachings (Mark 1:27), and wondered at His resurrected body (Luke 24:39-41).

--Pilate marveled at His restraint (Matt. 27:14).

--His executioners marveled at His greatness (Luke 23:47).

### Assignments for today

Sunday, August 11, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....David Gorski  
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Scripture Reading.....Matt. 26:1-5, 26-29  
Scripture Reader...Jim Carithers  
Opening Prayer.....Lee Williams  
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough  
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