

# The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXII

November 24, 2013

Number 47

## CONDITIONAL SECURITY

One of Calvin's five "points" is variously expressed as "perseverance of the Saints," "Security of the Believer," or more popularly, "Once Saved, Always Saved." One of the standard arguments in defence of the doctrine relies on passages of scripture affirming the providential care of God over his children. Scores of passages may be quoted; but do not be confused! Only one argument is being made with this abundant support. That argument is that God's power preserves his children (or the godly or the righteous or the believer or the saints) and precludes the possibility of their being lost. The advocates of this doctrine cannot see how a saved man could ever become a lost man without God being either weak or faithless.

The Bible teaches the security of the true believer, but not an unconditional security. The question is not whether God cares for the righteous man, but whether the righteous man can become an unrighteous man (Ezek 18:24, 26). It is not whether the believer is secure, but whether a believer can lose his faith.

One of the proof texts is I Peter 1:5 which is a good illustration of my point. An inheritance, as we are told, is "reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." The preservation, it is clear, has two sides. It is "by the power of God." That is God's side, and one may be sure that God's power will not fail. But there is another side. It is "through faith." That is man's side, and man's faith can fail (Luke 8:13; Heb. 3:12).

Consider a parallel: "...By grace have you been saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8). Most people understand that salvation has two sides: 1) God's grace and 2) man's faith. Many will not be saved despite God's grace because they do not have faith. There is nothing wrong with God's grace. But they do not meet the condition on which God's grace is bestowed.

Just as we are saved 1) by grace, 2) through faith, so we are guarded 1) by the power of God, 2) through faith. God's power will not fail, but man's faith might. In that case he is not guarded, for the guarding is conditioned not only on the power of God, but also on man's faith.

This reply should be sufficient for any except the most thorough, "dyed in the wool" Calvinist who will hold that faith is not a human action but a divine; that it is brought about by a direct, divine operation, and cannot fail.

The refutation is this: 1) Faith is a human act which is brought about by the word of God rather than a direct operation of the Holy Spirit (Acts 14:1; 15:7; 18:8; Rom. 10:17). 2) Faith being a human response to the word of God, it can fail.

Heb. 3:12 shows that "brethren" (v. 1, 6) can come to have "an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God."

L.A. Mott

# Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Steve - "The Power of Gratitude".

PM Lesson - Jack - "Remember!"

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:** Several sad, tragic notes this week. Dean Bulloch was a long time Texas preacher, known to many here. He passed from this life last week. Keep his family in your prayers. Adam Smelser's family has been much on my mind after his drowning in Bowling Green. His father, uncle, grandfather are all preachers of ability. We've known the family for many years. His father made this comment, "Thankful. Jesus saved the soul, the Warren County Rescue found the shell." Oh for a faith like that in the midst of tears.

We have many gone this week, or who will be leaving. I truly love the young people who spark our assembly and lives, but on these holidays they all go "home". Have a good and safe trip. Usually on occasions like this when so many are gone, we have a singing. So, on Wed. night we may make a list of everyone's favorite songs and worship God in this fashion.

Sunday, Dec. 1 we begin new classes. The schedule shows 2 adult classes. Job and Psalms, and The New Testament church. Again, we'll try for teacher and co-teacher in each class.

## Assignments for today

Sunday, November 24, 2013

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Scott Clanton  
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Scripture Reading.....John 3:14-16  
Scripture Reader.....Terry Walker  
Opening Prayer.....Bill Hill  
Closing Prayer.....Scott Clanton

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson  
Opening Prayer.....David Gorski  
Closing Prayer..... Scott Clanton

## Three Things

*Three things in life that, once gone, never come back*

Time

Words

Opportunity

## Three Things

*Three things in life that can destroy a person*

Anger

Pride

Unforgiveness

## Three Things

*Three things in life that you should never lose*

Hope

Peace

Honesty

## Three Things

*Three things in life that are never certain*

Fortune

Success

Dreams

## Three Things

*Three things that make a person*

Commitment

Sincerity

Hard Work

*Three things that are truly constant -*

**Father - Son - Holy Spirit**

*"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to please everybody." (Bill Cosby)*

## BELLAIRE church of Christ

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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