

The REMINDER

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

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PREPARE TO MEET GOD

God, through the prophet Amos, once said: "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" (4:12). In this way God warned His people of impending disaster, and exhorted them to get ready to face Him.

In Isaiah 40:3 and fulfilled in Matthew 3 God described John the baptist as a "voice crying in the wilderness", and his work as "prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." The ministry of John, whom the Lord described as a great man, was that of preparation - getting the Jews ready for the coming of Christ and His kingdom.

These two examples are sufficient to show the importance and urgency of preparation. All people see this need in things that are physical, financial and governmental; but in the most important realm - the only one that is truly important - most of us are relatively unconcerned. Too many intend to make this very important preparation, but like Felix of old, they are waiting for that "convenient season" which never comes.

Heaven is described as a prepared place (John 14:2-3; Rev. 21:2). Although the statement "heaven is a prepared place for prepared people" is not in the Bible in these exact words, the truth of it should be obvious to all Bible students. Only those cleansed by the blood of the Lamb have hope.

Another thought to consider is that only the prepared would enjoy heaven if they went there. Some are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:14). They are the ones "who mind earthly things" (Phil. 3:19). The Lord urges us to lay up treasure in heaven rather than on the earth (Matt. 6:19-20), and Paul encourages Christians to "set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

Our primary concern in this life is preparing for heaven and helping others on the way. Too many worship services and sermons center around community affairs, current events, business or politics. We preach Christ and His way. The only way to heaven. "Fear God and keep his commandments" is still the conclusion of all wisdom (Eccl. 12:13). Let us keep prepared.

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Alex Morolez
PM Lesson - Harrison Banks

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: Still quite a few people out of town today, including myself (and Anita), and Steve and Muffy. Thanks so much for Alex "volunteering" to cover the morning lesson. This will be his first time for a "full-length" sermon. Harrison has spoken here and other places many times. We appreciate his work today.

Please note the prayer list for those in continuing need of prayers. Especially those expecting babies in the next couple of weeks. It is an exciting time, but always a little anxiety.

Lessons For Life

- 1. You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to.*
- 2. Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.*
- 3. Two things to learn: First, there is a God. Second, You're not Him.*
- 4. When it comes time to die...make sure all you have left to do is die.*

Assignments for today

Sunday, December 29, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....David Gorski
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....John 19:22-42
Scripture Reader.....Trent Miles
Opening Prayer.....Matt Miles
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jim Carithers
Closing Prayer.....David Gorski

"Trying Out"

A preacher "trying out" for a "place" was given the third degree. "Have you any bad personal habits? Do you live within your income? What do you believe about divorce? How much preparation do you put into each sermon? Will your children put 'church' ahead of school activities? Etc., etc."

Well, a church has the right to know something about the preacher they plan to work with. Even his personal habits may greatly affect his work; although I doubt such questions will produce an accurate picture. I think he should answer their questions as best he can.

And then he should ask them a few questions.

"Why did the last preacher move from here? Do you have any chronic 'grippers' and if so what are you doing to discipline them? Does the present contribution fairly represent your financial strength? How firmly do you back, with personal labor and attendance each gospel meeting? What percentage of members prepare their lessons for Bible classes? Will your social life, and that of your children reflect favorably upon the cause of Christ? How concerned are you for lost souls, and how do you show this concern?"

When we learn that the preacher is just another member of the church, with the feelings and weaknesses of others; and when the preacher learns that Christians will never be perfected on the earth, then we will be in a position to develop a partnership that can accomplish the Lord's will.

adapted from an article by Robert Turner

BELLAIRE church of Christ

8001 South Rice Ave • P.O. Box 1029

Bellaire, Texas 77402

713/668-4810

<http://www.bellairechurchofchrist.org>

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

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