

The REMINDER

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

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Number 4

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Because many of our forefathers were willing to give their very lives to obtain the right to worship and serve God as they thought right, many people have come to believe this is a God given right. That is, they think God gives to every man the right to worship and serve as man sees fit. And whatever way man may choose to worship Deity is perfectly right with God. With this basic thought - man may serve in whatever way man things right - things have now come to the point that people think nothing really matters in religion. Just as long as you are honest and sincere, it doesn't matter what you believe, what you do or what church you are a member of. Is this true? What does God say?

It makes a difference **in whom** you believe. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me." Please observe that Jesus is not just "a" way, or "one" of the many ways, but he is "THE" way. Another "way" will not do. Again, Jesus said, "if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). It not enough to simply believe in somebody. We must believe in the Jesus of the Bible. It does make a difference.

It makes a difference **what** you believe. It isn't enough to simply believe something. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The Bible further says that those who "believe a lie" will be damned (2 Thess 2:10-12). False teaching and religious error cannot make you free. It makes a difference what you believe.

It makes a difference about **doctrine**. Many say that doctrine doesn't matter as long as you believe in Jesus and try to live a good life. Now, believing in Jesus and living a good life are important, and we wouldn't want to minimize them; but listen to what the Lord says about doctrine. "Whosoever transgresses and abides not in the doctrine of Christ has not God" (2 John 9). When we get outside what Christ teaches, we don't have God. That sounds important. Being without God in life should matter to all of us.

It has **always** made a difference. Look in Genesis 4 at the record of Cain and Abel. Observe that both worshipped; they both worshipped God; they both worshipped the same God. And yet God did not accept the sacrifice of Cain. Cain brought what Cain wanted to, not what God required. It made a difference then and now.

It makes an **eternal** difference. In Matt. 7:21 Jesus said, "Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven." It is not enough to simply do something! Jesus said we must do the will of the Father.

There is a lesson here for everyone, of every age. Learn what the Lord says. Do what the Lord says. It's the only way to please the Lord.

Bulletin Board

Sermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Behold The Lamb of God"

PM Lesson - Jack - "Lessons From Phillip - the Evangelist"

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: Thankfully, the virus that was so widespread in Dec. has faded a bit. Most of us are well. Do continue to remember Anna. Lauren Perkins told us of a further problem with her uncle Mark. His cancer has spread beyond the original site. Don't know if he will continue with the therapy or not. Keep that family in your prayers.

We did hear of the passing of Millie Ballou. She attended here many years ago, and many of the "old folks" knew her. There will be a celebration of her life at her son's house this afternoon. Details are on the bulletin board.

Our members continue to travel. Jan and Richard were still gone on Wed. Don't know of their plans to return home. Austin Miles is in Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Probably others gone as well. Hope they travel safely.

"Success in teaching does not depend wholly on the one doing the teaching, but rather upon the one being taught. It was the soil in the parable that failed."

Rejoicing In God's Care

Who said ours was a sad religion? Who was it that connected a long face with our faith? Everywhere in the Bible we are encouraged to rejoice. From Deuteronomy in the Old Testament to Revelation in the New. "Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!" cried the psalmist. "Rejoice O young man in your youth!" urged Solomon. "Rejoice...and be glad!" said Isaiah. So also said the prophets, Jesus, Paul, and Peter.

None of these is urging a frivolous view of life. Certainly the Bible teaches us that life is to be taken quite seriously. We are not to cultivate a false gaiety that is shallow and superficial. We are rather to recognize and to be daily aware of His presence. Then there wells up within us a genuine joy.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God" (Isa. 61:10).
author unknown

"People who wonder where this younger generation is headed will do well to consider where it came from."

"If fifty million people say a foolish thing over and over, it is still a foolish thing."

"A lot of people waste too much sympathy on themselves."

Assignments for today

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Alex Morolez
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Acts 17:1-3
Scripture Reader.....Bill Mann
Opening Prayer.....Jim Carithers
Closing Prayer.....Alex Morolez

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams
Opening Prayer.....Chris Cecil
Closing Prayer.....Alex Morolez

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

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire