

The REMINDER

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

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Number 6

WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT DO YOU HAVE?

"As he thinks in his heart, so is he", said Solomon; and while he was speaking in that context of the stingy man who invites you to dinner and then begrudges every bite you take (Prov. 23:6f), the point he makes is true in general. You **are** what you think, and the kind of spirit you have will determine your words, your actions and your relationships to God and man. In this light, let's look at three contrasts from the apostle Paul - all dealing with the spirit (attitude) we are to have, and each involving a "not...but" statement.

1. "For you have not received the spirit of bondage...but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). Our attitude and disposition towards God should not be that of a slave, whose life is one of constant fear. Rather it should be that of a son - a son who can call on God as "Father," and even as "Abba."

"Abba" is an Aramaic word for "father," used by the Jews only in the closest family relations. It was an intimate and tender word. The Jews did not use it of God, but Jesus did (Mark 14:36), and Paul tells us that because we are one with Jesus, we can too. If we abuse God's tender love, or view it with contempt, a terrible punishment awaits. Our God is also a consuming fire. Let us give our lives to God's service and seek to please Him in every respect - not as a slave who is afraid, but as an adopted son who loves.

2. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:12). The "Spirit of the world" is the disposition which accepts only what comes through normal human discovery and wisdom. Here the "spirit which is of God" is not only (for the apostles) the Holy Spirit revealing God's mind and plan for man, but (for every Christian) the disposition which accepts divine revelation as a wisdom far above human wisdom. The Christian is different from the worldly man in part because he trusts God's will. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

3. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not...ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...but be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God" (2 Tim. 1:7-8). The "spirit of fear" is a disposition and temperament that is timid and cowardly. This same word is used by Jesus of the apostles when a storm threatened their boat, and He attributed that fear to their unbelief (Matt. 8:26). Jesus says that His disciples are not to fear, but are to find peace in Him (John 14:27). This kind of fearfulness heads the list of those who will spend eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8). The man who is always afraid lacks faith. He does not enjoy the peace Jesus gives. Because his fear reflects a basic lack of trust in God, he is condemned.

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BulletinBoard

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve
PM Lesson - Jack - "The Fruit of the Spirit"

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: Thanks to all for lifting up Julieanne (my niece) in your prayers. She is home from the hospital. Don't know if there was ever an exact diagnosis, just glad she's better. Beth Jackson, who was with us Wed. night, came thru surgery just fine. She is in Dallas recovering for the next week or two. We had several of our local folks out Wed night with our usual health problems. Listen today for a more complete update.

Mark and Kim were gone to Oklahoma for a funeral. They weren't sure if they'd be back by today or not. Keep them in mind for a safe journey as well as for the grief of losing a family member. Lauren Perkins is out of town for several weekends on business. Several of our recent travellers are back, the Garretts, the Miles, and Harrison Banks, though Harrison is gone again - preaching in Lake Jackson today. I believe Sharon Benthall is in Dallas with Beth for her surgery.

There are several meetings and singings on the bulletin board. Take a look at the announcements as you plan your weekly adventures.

"Spirit"

(concluded from front page)

In contrast to this "spirit," Paul says we are to have a "spirit" of power. We are to be bold and aggressive in Christ. Yet we are not belligerent or arrogant: it is also a spirit of love. Because we have both power and love, we are balanced in our attitude. So Paul says it is a spirit of a sound mind.

How is your spirit? Do you think like a slave - or a son? Do you rely on God's Word as a guide for your daily life - or seek human wisdom? Do you live in fear and anxiety - or do you find peace and power through faith in Christ, a power tempered by love and resulting in a sound and balanced mind? The choice is yours. The outcome is eternal.

Francis Chan, author of Crazy Love, says imagine you told your child, "Go clean your room." Your child walked away and returned and said, "I memorized what you said...I can even say it in Greek! In fact, some of my friends are going to come over tonight and do a little study on what it would look like for me to clean my room!" That scenario is absurd! Yet are we guilty of doing that in our quiet times? Is there a disconnection between our quiet time and our application of God's word in real life?

Assignments for today

Sunday, February 9, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Matt Miles
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Rom. 5:6-11
Scripture Reader.....Austin Miles
Opening Prayer.....Lee Williams
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Krueger
Opening Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

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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