REMINDER

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

Volume XXXIII

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Number 8

"UNSKILLFUL"

"For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which are the first principles of the oracles of God; and are such as have need of milk and not of strong meat. For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word or righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to those that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." In these verses (12-14) from Hebrews five the writer reproaches the Christians who had not matured in Christ. They were unskillful in the word of righteousness and consequently, unable to "discern both good and evil."

It is a terrible thing not to be able to tell the difference between good and evil. And when such ignorance is self inflicted, "Woe to them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight! Woe to them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoures the stubble and the flames consumes chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel" (Isa. 5:20-24).

In each of these passages the trouble was the same: men did not know good from evil because they were "unskillful in the word of righteousness," or had "despised the word of the Holy One of Israel." It should be apparent to the Christian from these passages and others like them that the only standard of good and evil is God's word. Tragically, our society utilizes almost any standard except that, and Christians are sometimes swept along in the movement.

"Everybody's doing it," is the cry of majority rule and "follow the crowd" is often raised by Christians. And on such a basis things like immodest apparel, dishonesty in business, etc. are defended. Those who are skillful in the word of righteousness know that Paul declared in Titus 2:14 that Jesus sacrificed himself "that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Peter also said: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light..." (I Pet. 2:9). Christians don't want to be like the world which is in darkness; they have been called into the marvelous light of God's grace.

Frankly, our world is growing crazier by the minute! If so-called Christians continue to go along with it, there will be no degradation and shame to which they do not stoop.

We need to get our Bibles and study them, search them, meditate about the Word. We need to become skillful in the ord of righteousness so we may exercise our senses to discern good and evil. Otherwise, we are going to displease the God who loved us and gave His Son for us.

James Ward

BulletinBoard

Coming Clean With the Lord

".əmthiw be good," Jason said. "I asked Him to help you put up I know He will help you." "But I didn't ask him to help me ior. "That's wonderful. If you ask God to make you good, mother, pleased with his attitude, encouraged his behavthinking about what I did, and I offered a prayer." His room. A short time later he came out and said, "I've been Jason had misbehaved, so his mother sent him to his

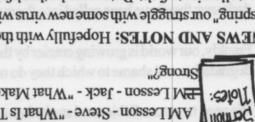
adultery and murder, he made no excuses. (v. 12). When David confessed the shameful deeds of 10), and asked for a restoration of the joy of his salvation acknowledged his $\sin(v, 3)$, asked for a clean heart (v. in Psalm 51 he first asked for mercy (v. 1). Then he clean with the Lord about our own sin. In David's prayer about our circumstances is effective only when we come and avoid the heart of the matter - our own heart. Praying stances. In doing so, we focus on secondary problems petition the Lord to change other people or our circumadmit that we may be to blame for the problem, so we Prayers like Jason's are not uncommon. We don't like to

most profitable. that kind of praying is not always comfortable - but it's talk with Him. We may have to struggle with ourselves-

God wants nothing less than our total honesty when we

Dennis De Hann (from Lincoln Bible Reader)

PM Lesson - Jack - "What Makes a Church AM Lesson - Steve - "What Is Truth?"



prayers for their long term difficulties. ready for dialysis. Keep these folks and others in your dure done at the hospital this past week. Getting her has been going through. Laura Claburn also had a proceprayer is that the surgery will relieve her of the pain she general good health. Anna is home from the hospital. Our Just allergies to fight. But we can be thankful for our "spring" our struggle with some new virus will be over. NEWS AND NOTES: Hopefully with the arrival of

this moming. Several are out of town this weekend. We'll try to update

here every service. Moorer will be with us March 21-23. Make your plans to We have a gospel meeting coming up soon. Kenny

want to be in that class, please see Matt. serve in the assembly and things like that. If any adults Matt will have a young men's training class-preparing to (Philemon, Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude). In addition, Ezekiel and Daniel and 2) Short New Testament Books New quarter begins next Sunday. Adult classes are 1)

Lord, but himself as well." For thirty pieces of silver Judas sold not only the

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Schedule of Services

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

Jack Smith and Steve Garrett Minister and editor 7:30 PM Study and Devotional Wednesday:

didenow M9 00:8 11:00 AM Bible study qidznoW MA 05:9 Sunday:

> Sunday, February 23, 2014 Assignments for today

Prayer......Matt Closing Opening PrayerJim Carithers Scripure ReaderJohnny Martinez Scripture Reading Romans 8:31-39 Hymn DirectorRobert McDonald Announcements Matt Morning Service

Evening Service

Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles Prayer.....Chris Opening Hymn Director Michael Robinson