

# The REMINDER

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

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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 the 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..." (1 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 word 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

# Bulletin Board

## Coming Clean With the Lord

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

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

God wants nothing less than our total honesty when we talk with Him. We may have to struggle with ourselves - that kind of praying is not always comfortable - but it's most profitable.

Dennis De Ham (from Lincoln Bible Reader)

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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

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## Assignments for today

Sunday, February 23, 2014

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Matt Miles

Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald

Scripture Reading.....Romans 8:31-39

Scripture Reader.....Johnny Martinez

Opening Prayer.....Jim Carthers

Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson

Opening Prayer.....Chris Cecil

Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

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