


The Reminder

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

“Mental Road Blocks”



I was reading an article about "Tithing", and while I disagree about it being an ordinance in New Testament times, the author did make an interesting point. "Nobody can afford to tithe until they do." It reminds me of a sentiment I often hear about children; "We're waiting to have kids until we can afford them.". A noble idea, but sort of naive. No one can "afford" children. We have them because we love them. They're one of our greatest earthly blessings.

The same principle is true of almost any service to God. We can't render any particular service until we just do it. Remove the mental road blocks and do it. I remember the first sermon I preached. It didn't go over nearly as well as I had planned. I promised myself it would be my last. That decision relieved so much stress and pressure, the realization that I would never have to go thru "that" again. But the church was desperate and I was "encouraged" to do it again. Still going thru the experience some 50 years later, still trying.

The same was true of personal evangelism. Speaking to a crowd was difficult, but in some ways easier than talking to one person, especially meeting a stranger and introducing him to the Lord. "What if argument results?" I don't like confrontations. There are hundreds of "reasons" to refrain from sharing the truth. Just do it.

It doesn't always get easier. Disagreements do sometimes result, but so do baptisms. Most of life is a risk. Progress doesn't usually come easily, and the Lord deserves our best efforts. These efforts usually improve with experience if we don't let Satan talk us out of trying.

It's amazing what we can do when we just launch forth. The early church dispersed from Jerusalem because of persecution, but "those who had been scattered went about preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). They didn't complain about their "bad luck" or their limitations. Some of these folks landed in Antioch and talked to their neighbors there and a church resulted (11:19ff). The teachers weren't apostles, just ordinary Christians doing their best.

The intent of these few words isn't to get you to do evangelism. Check your mental road blocks and try something. Anything. Especially if you think you can't. Sometimes we really can't. I'm not much of a song leader, No "ear for music", or voice either for that matter. But, I didn't know, really know, until I tried. "You can't afford to tithe till you just do it." "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it" (Malachi 3:10). It will be exciting to see how God blesses us.

-JLS

SUNDAY
MARCH 1, 2015

BELLAIRE

church of Christ

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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 Bible Study



“Be Fair”

Morning Lesson

Mike Grushon

Evening Lesson

Singing

News and Notes:

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

We're having a guest speaker this morning. A friend of ours is on his way to Austin and stopped over for a day or so. I asked him to speak this morning. He preaches in the Dayton, Ohio area. He spoke here several years ago, but most of our "new" members haven't met him yet. Should be a good morning.

We had some out Wed. night with whatever virus is going around, but no new serious illnesses. Denise's mom did have a hip replacement last week. Came thru surgery just fine, but had some complications. Keep that family in your prayers.

Steve should be home today. Don't know when Muffy is due back. Anita made the trip to Alabama just fine. Should be home late next Sunday.

New Adult Classes begin this morning. Jack and Justin will teach "World Religions" in the auditorium. Steve concludes "John" then begins "Romans".

Back when Paul “Bear” Bryant was coaching for the University of Kentucky, an odd thing happened during a game against Tennessee.

According to Bryant, “We fumbled right in front of our bench, and in the resulting melee, a box holding eight footballs was turned over. Suddenly, there were nine footballs flying loose on the field. No one knew for sure which one was actually in play.”

If you had been one of the officials for that game, what call would you have made? Would you have been fair to both teams? What if it were your favorite team? What if you had relatives playing on one side?

As it turned out, Tennessee recovered five footballs while Kentucky recovered four, so the officials awarded the ball to Tennessee.

The next time we are tempted to render our verdict on some situation in life, consider what we would do if we were in their position.

“Before you:
Assume - Learn the facts
Judge - Understand why
Hurt Someone - Feel
Speak - Think”

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Mann
Hymn Director - W. Hodge
Scripture Reader - M. Howell
Luke 24:6-7
Luke 24:19-21
Opening Prayer - A. Morolez
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Opening Prayer - J. Martinez
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

BIBLE CLASSES

- World Religions
- John and Romans
- Graded Classes for Children