

The REMINDER

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

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AN INTOLERANT CHURCH

While we are taught (Romans 14) to make allowances for individual judgments and opinions and be tolerant toward weak brethren, we are also taught that there are certain things toward which we are to be intolerant. This doesn't suit the modern, compromising world. Progressives would have us to be tolerant to all kinds of evil. Ecumenism would allow almost anything as long as those involved are "sincere". There are no distinctive Biblical doctrines, they say, and so we must be tolerant toward those with whom we differ. And now our own brethren are urging that after one has obeyed the gospel, we should be tolerant toward the "doctrines" each may espouse.

Scriptural unity is obtained by being of "the same mind and the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). As Paul advances his arguments to this end for the Corinthians, he declares that the "mind" we are to have is the "mind of Christ" (2:16) and the judgments we make are spiritual judgments based on this revelation (2:14-15). The problems at Corinth stemmed from carnal judgments based on the wisdom of this world (3:1-3). We are to be intolerant toward everything that does not have its source from heaven. Paul instructed the Romans to "mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling contrary to the doctrines which we learned: and turn away from them" (Rom. 16:17).

Paul was intolerant toward men who perverted the gospel of Christ. When Judaizers demanded Gentiles to be circumcised and obey the law, Paul "gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue" (Gal. 2:5). He even withstood Peter to his face when his actions gave comfort to such false ideas (2:11).

Truth and error are not compatible, they cannot remain together in the same heart. The Corinthians were urged, "come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (2 Cor. 6:17). There is no fellowship between righteousness and iniquity, no communion between light and darkness, no concord between Christ and Belial and the believer has no portion with the unbeliever (6:14-15). Anything out of harmony with the revelation that comes from God pollutes man's soul and must be forsaken. Man cannot afford to tolerate anything that puts his life in danger of alienation from God. False doctrine condemns and we cannot tolerate evil men and false teachers. They bewitched the Galatians (3:1), made shipwreck of the faith (I Tim. 1:19) and are reserved for punishment (2 Peter 2:9).

Isn't it strange that one can come with a strange doctrine and brethren will tolerate him, but let one speak against the false doctrine and he becomes the villain, he lacks "love", he is the "troubler of Israel." Some at Corinth would "bear with a man, if he brings you into bondage, if he devours you, if he takes you captive" (2 Cor. 11:20), but they would not bear with Paul who had proven himself to be an apostle of Jesus. They tolerated the wrong people and the wrong things. False teachers said what they wanted to hear. Learn to be intolerant of sin.

Morris D. Norman

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Is This A Good Church?"

PM Service - First Sunday singing. Mark is in charge of the worship.

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: Just a note or two about those "under the weather." Curby seems to be doing very well, something to rejoice about. Pat wore a monitor for her heart last week. It showed no serious problems. Still looking for the cause of her distress. Megan Moon's grandfather isn't doing well, Keep praying for him and his family. Don't have an update on Sharon's mom, but hope the pain had either gone away or become bearable.

Joe and Lauren Bingham, who moved to the Washington area have a new baby boy. Congratulations to them, and we're thrilled all is well.

Hope Alex and Shannon are home today. The Garretts are in Tampa for the FC Lectures. We'll miss them. They should be home next weekend.

Next Sunday night, Feb. 10, Ruben Amador will speak for us. He will tell us some about his recent preaching trips, then use the remaining time for a Bible lesson.

"Many of the most firmly held beliefs are based solidly in ignorance."

Assignments for today

Sunday, February 3, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Col. 1:13-23
Scripture Reader.....Chad Smith
Opening Prayer.....Matt Miles
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Mark Mann
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

To Help or Hinder?

When Jonah was on the ship bound for Tarshish, he was attempting to flee from the presence of the Lord. "But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest so that the ship was like to be broken" (1:4). The disobedience of Jonah not only endangered Jonah himself, but also the lives of all the others on the ship. Jonah couldn't say, "It's no one's business what I do." Jonah's disobedience became mighty important business to all the other mariners.

Consider another sea voyage (Acts 27). This time the principal character is Paul, a man of great faith and steadfast obedience. While on a ship bound for Italy, Paul and 275 others were in the midst of a terrible storm, "exceedingly tossed with a tempest." Luke says that "all hope that we should be saved was then taken away." But the angel of God stood by Paul saying, "Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God has given you all them that sail with you." The 275 others whose lives were saved surely couldn't say it was of no concern to them that a God-fearing man was in their midst.

We can't say that it's nobody's business how we live. Our disobedience endangers others; those others may be our own children, our associates in business, or our best friend. Someone is watching you. You are casting a shadow of influence. Let us be careful as to what kind of shadow we are casting.

Raymond Kelsy

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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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