

# The REMINDER

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

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## WHISPERERS, BACKBITERS & TALEBEARERS

In almost every catalog of wrongs in the N. T. is included sins pertaining to gossip. (Matt. 15:19; Rom. 1:29-31; Eph. 5:25-32; and more). An old saying has it that where there's smoke there's fire. That fire is often on the tip of someone's long tongue. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. So is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and is set on fire of hell" (James. 3:5-6)

Are you guilty of gossiping about others? Or do you possess big ears for gossip? If you and I would refuse to be a party to whispering and backbiting, the busybodies' injurious work would be seriously hampered. Possibly some have not stopped to seriously consider what gossiping really is or how grave an offence it is against God and man. Here are some stratagems and call-words of talebearers that we should commit to memory. When we hear these words or recognize these actions we should politely inform the bodybody that we do not wish to be a party to sin.

1. *"I know this is none of my business, but..."* Inform the speaker that since he (she) knows it's none of their business, then shall we please discuss other matters.
2. *"This is confidential..."* What the speaker usually means is "This is a real scoop, especially since I've added my spice to it... Please tell as many people as possible. I've been on the phone all morning." Inform this person that if it is so confidential, you're sure that it's not for your ears since you do not have a clearance for confidential material.
3. *"They tell me" or "I've heard from several sources..."* This way the talebearer does not have to be responsible for the story because this is just the way they got it. If asked who the sources are, the busybody can always say, "I'm not supposed to say. I'd be betraying a confidence." You should inform this person that "they" have never proven themselves very reliable sources to you. Even the Old Testament demanded that an accusation not be received against a brother except in the presence of witnesses.
4. *Faulty logic* - Gossipers are usually very adept in multiplication; but poor in addition. They often add 2+2 and come up with 8. It would probably be enlightening to some who have accepted accusations from "friends" against others to work a few sums themselves. What evidence really exists? Could it be that someone's good name is being harmed by baseless rumor?
5. *"I'll just let you draw your own conclusions..."* In this fashion the gossipper feels that they cannot be held accountable for any false conclusions you draw. "I have no confidence in that preacher. He doesn't preach the truth." Well, in what particular does he do wrong. The implication in the accusation is strong, but there's nothing to examine.

Don't be a party to gossip. If a rumor is heard, it should be reported to the person being villified, and perhaps to the elders as well. The person who stated the rumor should be asked for an explanation. This is a serious matter, and it involves the security of our soul as well as our reputation.

Ken Green

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Reactions To The Resurrection"

PM Lesson - Ruben Amador

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:** We learned last week of the death of Megan Moon's grandfather. I've heard many speak highly of him in the last few days. A good man who loved the Lord and communicated that love to his family. Our sympathy to the family for their loss. It's always difficult to lose a loved one, but less so when heaven is their new home.

Sharon's mom continues in the hospital. Most of us received an email update on her condition, which is not good. Keep the family in your prayers. Muffy's dad had knee surgery last week, and is in a rehab facility. There were some concerns, but he is doing well now. Pat Butler is also doing well. It's been a worrisome couple of weeks, but all looks good now.

Ruben Amador is to be with us this evening. He will tell us some about his recent trips, including the one to Coata Rica where we support the local preacher. He will conclude the service with a Bible lesson. We have supported him thru the years in his overseas evangelistic efforts. Look forward to seeing and hearing him tonight.

## He Earned Every Bit Of It!

An old edition of Reader's Digest carried the following quip: "A Texan was having dinner with friends in Houston when the conversation turned to children. Someday when you're down our way I'd like to have you see my son's ranch. He's only 16, but he's already got himself a magnificent spread - and he earned every bit of it.

One friend asked how a 16 year-old managed to earn a big ranch. The Texan replied, "By hustling. That boy got two A's and a B on his report card."

We're reminded of brethren who seem to believe they are going to heaven because they have believed the gospel, repented of their sins, been baptized, attended worship regularly, visited sick and been ready unto every good work. To them they "earned every bit of it." No, if we get to heaven, we shall do so because God loved us, Christ died for us and His grace was abundantly bestowed on us. "By grace are you saved through faith...not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

We do not minimize the necessity of man's obedience. One must believe, repent, be baptized and live faithfully unto death; for it is through obedience that one becomes a beneficiary of God's grace. "By grace are you saved through faith." Our obedience, however, no more "earns" our salvation than a boy's good grades "earns" a big ranch. The boy makes A's and B's, and the father gives him a ranch. It is a gift. We obey the gospel, and become servants of the Lord, and our Father gives us eternal life. It is a gift (Rom. 6:23). "But by the grace of God I am what I am..." (1 Cor. 15:10).

Bill Hall

### Assignments for today

Sunday, February 10, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Jim Carithers  
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge  
Scripture Reading.....Col. 2:8-15  
Scripture Reader.....Austin Miles  
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Dan Kimbrough  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Carithers

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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