

The REMINDER

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

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Number 41

"FORGET NOT FELLOWSHIP"

This title is drawn from Heb. 13:16 where the ASV reads, "But to do good and to communicate forget not..." A literal rendering of the Greek would run, "But doing of good and fellowship forget not." Hence: Forget not fellowship.

A Tennessean who defined fellowship as "being on the same ship" was not far from the mark. It means association, communion, joint participation, a share in common, partnership. Fellowship involves a joint endeavor, a joint participation. Where there is no participation there is no fellowship. We read of fellow-workers (Phil. 2:25; 4:3) and fellow-soldiers (Phil. 2:25). If both of us are not working, we are not fellow-workers; if both are not fighting the battle for Christ we are not fellow-soldiers. Fellowship implies two or more sharing in something.

What is involved in the admonition "Forget not fellowship?" It surely involves giving to needy brethren. Romans 12:13 bids us "communicate to the necessities of the saints." Paul used the Greek verb which means to have fellowship. We are to have fellowship with the saints with respect to their needs. The partnership between Christians involves a share in liabilities as well as in assets. Grimm-Thayer defines the duty of Rom. 12:13 thus: "so to make another's necessities one's own as to relieve them." We are to take upon ourselves a share of the other's needs; to treat the other's needs as if they were our needs. Doing that, we will of course do what we can to relieve those needs. "Forget not fellowship" includes that much, but more.

Heb. 10:24-25 suggests a fellowship in the public meetings: "...and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day drawing nigh." The "exhorting" takes place in the public meetings - "not forsaking...but exhorting." Instead of abandoning the meetings, use them as an occasion for exhorting each other. Assembling is not an arbitrary duty; it is not commanded for no reason. It fills a need of God's people. They get strength from the contact with each other, from being together, helping each other to hold out to the end and to stand against all the hostile forces in the world. There, forget not fellowship.

Heb. 13:3 tells us to fellowship those in bonds: Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; them that are ill-treated, as being yourselves also in the body." Make yourselves partners with such Christians; share their load.

Read Heb. 10:32-34 in this connection. A part of the past sufferings of these Christians involved "becoming partakers with them that were so used." What is a Christian's duty when a brother or sister is being mistreated, maligned, held up to ridicule for faithfulness to Christ? Can we hold ourselves aloof from them?, pretend we have nothing to do with them. "Forget not fellowship."

L. A. Mott

Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Jack - "Are We Eating Our Seed?"
PM Lesson - Steve - "Praying 4 Change"

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: Not much "new" on the health front. Many of our members need continual prayer for their condition. Do especially pray for the Mabry family. Last report is that Gene isn't doing well. He was in St. Luke's in the Medical Center. Don't know how long they expect him to be there.

We have several out of town today, or leaving this afternoon. Alex and Shannon are in Odessa for a high school reunion (20th year, for Alex). Martin, Wendy and girls are out of town. Dan and Janice leave this afternoon for a vacation. Sharon is in Dallas visiting family. Probably others as well. Our prayers for a safe journey.

Michael and Joanna Krueger have placed membership with us. We welcome them as a good addition to our growing number. Address is 2020 Texas Ave. Apt. 1423, Houston, 77003. His phone is 281-787-5883. Her phone is 409-651-8402.

"The man who is too old to learn was probably always too old to learn."

There Is A Difference

There is a difference in salvation by faith (Eph. 2:8) and salvation by faith only (James 2:24). There is a difference in conversion (Matt. 18:3) and convulsion - getting religion at the mourner's bench. There is a difference in being "poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3) and being poor spirited. There is a difference in "contending for the faith" (Jude 3) and being contentious. Paul prayed that the Philippians might "distinguish the things that differ" - marginal rendering in the ASV. Soldiers trained to react violently to every aggressive move on the part of the enemy must not carry his training into civilian life when separated from the armed services. He must learn to "distinguish things that differ." It is extremely easy for a contender to become contentious. It is virtuous to be a contender, for truth is his goal. On the other hand, the contentious person contends for the sake of contention. A combative disposition is not necessarily praise-worthy. The contender fights only when vital truth is assailed. The contentious person manufactures occasions for controversy. The wise man wrote: "A continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike" (Prov. 27:15). It is our judgment that a contentious man in the kingdom of God is quite as boresome and irritating.

James W. Adams

"Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults."

Assignments for today

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....Luke 18:31-34
Scripture Reader.....Rudy Black
Opening Prayer.....David Gorski
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

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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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