

The REMINDER

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

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THE GREAT DELUSION

In the night of His betrayal Jesus tells His disciples, "All of you shall be offended in me this night..." (Matt. 26:31). But Peter thought otherwise and said so. "If all shall be offended in you, I will never be offended" (v. 33). Peter was saying, in effect, what so many have said down through the years: "It won't happen to me!" - but it did.

"It won't happen to me" is a pernicious but popular form of self-deception that blinds us to truth, facts and reality. This was brought home to me recently when a friend of a friend of mine was hospitalized as a result of a serious motorcycle accident. One of his visitors remarked that she would like for her son to come up and see first-hand what happens to people who ride those "awful machines." The answer coming from the hospital bed was not what she expected. "It won't do any good for your son to see me like this," he replied. "They all think it won't happen to them." Having two grown sons and another "going on grown," I can appreciate his reply. Citing accident reports, death and injury statistics, personal testimonies and the like to teenagers with "motorcycle fever" is like talking to deaf people - because, like the ...an said, they think it won't happen to them. However, would-be motorcycle jockeys are not the only ones who suffer from such delusions.

Consider for instance the multitudes of grown, intelligent people (including some anti-motorcyclists) who choose to ignore the frequent and competent warnings linking smoking to cancer and heart disease. They KNOW the risks, they know that tobacco will contribute to nearly 130,000 deaths this year, yet somehow conclude, "It won't happen to me." Shortly before dying with lung cancer a dear friend once told me, "We always think it just happens to the other fellow, don't we? - Too late we learn better." But the cherished delusion doesn't stop there.

Think of the mountain of evidence drinkers choose to ignore. Over 55% of all highway deaths are alcohol related; over 6 1/2 million Americans become alcoholics and 3 million teenagers are headed in the same direction. Alcohol contributes to broken homes, neglected children, lost jobs and countless other problems, yet the drinker, even when sober, comes to the irrational and preposterous conclusion that "It won't happen to me."

Foolish? Consider the fact that one of six unmarried women will become pregnant this year. Some of them will be Christians, taught from youth to "flee fornication" and to keep themselves pure. Think, too, of young Christians who choose to marry and spend the rest of their lives with a non-Christian. They have heard of the dangers, the weakening influences in such relationships, yet they continue to think what they want to believe, "It won't happen to me."

Finally consider the host of unfaithful who have become spiritual drop-outs through the years. Most never thought they would; they didn't plan to. Perhaps, they too, lived with the Great Delusion of Peter. Do you?

Dan Shipley

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "The Jonah Profile"
PM Worship - Worship in song - Michael
Krueger is in charge.

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: Beth Jackson was with us on Wed. night. She is recovering from surgery, with another possible surgery in the near future. Keep her in your prayers. Also remember to pray for Laura Claburn and Anna Meikle as they recover from recent medical procedures.

We begin new classes today. Adult classes will be: Ezekiel and Daniel - Jack teaching in the auditorium. Short New Testament books - Steve teaching in the upstairs class on the north side of the building. Matt Miles will teach a training class for young men. Other graded classes also begin.

We have a gospel meeting in just a couple of weeks - March 21-23. Hope you've made plans to be here.

"In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings." (Ann Landers)

Looking Through Fresh Eyes

One day a father and his rich family took his son to the country with the firm purpose of showing him how poor people can be. They spent a day and a night on the farm of a very poor family. When they got back from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"Very good, Dad!"

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Yeah" was the reply.

"And what did you learn?"

The son answered, "I saw that we have a dog at home, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden; they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden; they have the stars. Our patio reaches to the front yard; they have a whole horizon."

When the little boy was finished, his father was speechless. His son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't it true that it all depends on the way you look at things? If you have love, friends, family, health, good humor and a positive attitude towards life, you've got more than most. You can't buy any of these things, but still you can have all the material possessions you can imagine, provisions for the future, but if you are poor of spirit, you have nothing.

"Hell is for two classes of people: those who will do anything and those who will not do anything."

Assignments for today

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mark Mann
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....Romans 14:9, 15
Scripture Reader.....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez
Closing Prayer.....Mark Mann

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Krueger
Opening Prayer.....Steve Garrett
Closing Prayer.....Mark Mann

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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