

The REMINDER

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

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Number 10

THE POWER OF GOODFINDING

The words "goodfinding" or "goodfinder" can't be found in your dictionary. However, there's power in the art of looking for the good. On the other hand you will find the words "faultfinding" and "faultfinder." "A faultfinder is a person given to finding fault; chronic, captious complainer." He is a person fond of catching others in a mistake and is quick to confuse or entrap one in argument. He constantly stresses faults and raises objections.

Now this is not intended to censure constructive criticism or so-called "negative preaching." There is room in every Christians life for a wholesome, sound negativism. Three hundred and sixty-five of Moses' 613 commandments are negative. Eight of the ten commandments are negative. Two-thirds of Paul's commission to Timothy is negative. He told him to "reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).

The kind of faultfinding approved in the Bible is in a "spirit of meekness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1). It is not the kind that is done "through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better in themselves" (Phil. 2:3). You see, "love works no ill to his neighbor" (Rom. 13:10), so the kind of faultfinding characterized by love indeed reproves and rebukes, but the intent is to work good (to build up) rather than to work ill (to tear down).

Though you won't discover the words goodfinding or goodfinder in your dictionary, nonetheless, there's power in accentuating the positive. The goodfinder inspires and motivates you to desirable action. He makes you feel happier about yourself and generates good feeling toward himself by expressing goodfindings about you.

An outstanding characteristic of the inspired letters in the N. T. are the words of commendation found in each. Even in letters of rebuke, praise is to be found first. When Paul wrote the strong rebuke to the Corinthians, he first expressed thanks for them (I Cor. 1:4). The letters to the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2 & 3) had commendations before reproof, if such was possible. The point is this: develop an attitude of seeking good in each person. Even when they are at fault, before you correct them, try first to compliment them (not flattery), and then the criticism will most likely be "speech with grace, seasoned with salt." (Col. 4:6). How many of us listen to the chronic faultfinder anyway? The nagging husband, wife or parent gets nowhere with the ones they would like to influence. The captious backbiter in the church does no good, but usually stirs up hurt feelings and breeds more criticism.

When you share with others a part of what you have that is good, that which remains multiplies and grows. In finding good in another individual you develop the habit of true goodfinding in yourself. Your speech betrays what is in your heart. Some are described by the Psalmist, "You love evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness" (Ps. 101:2:3). Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things" (Matt. 12:35) What kind of person are you? A goodfinder or a fault finder?

Robert Harkrider

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Sing for Joy."
PM Lesson - Jack - "Danger, Danger, Every-
where"

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: I don't have an update on Geoff and Sarah's baby (Jesse and Lori's grandson). He was suffering some distress with his vital signs on Friday, and is in NICU in a Dallas hospital. He has stabilized, and we pray for the best. Sarah Acton's mom and dad, who live in Alabama, are also in need of prayers due to health issues. Please keep these and others in your thoughts this week. I don't know of any others who have special needs at this time.

Hope you remembered the time change last night. Don't know why this has to happen on Sunday morning. Maybe it's a commentary on how lawmakers consider the Lord's Day.

Remember our gospel meeting coming up in a couple of weeks. March 21-23. Announcements have been mailed out to area congregations. Others will be ready shortly for us to give to friends.

"Heredity: An omnibus in which all our ancestors ride, and every now and then, one of them puts his head out and embarrasses us."

The Spirit of Christ

Have you ever wondered why the church has not enjoyed greater numerical and spiritual growth? Do you suppose we could be at fault? Take a look at these thoughts:

1. Am I So Critical that I see a person's weak points quicker than I do his good points?
2. Am I So Childish that everyone has to handle me with caution to keep me from getting upset?
3. Am I So Sensitive that I make myself miserable by taking in a personal way everything that is said by others?
4. Am I Always Thinking everyone else is out of step but me, and that I could be happy if everybody would just do right?
5. Do I Hurt People with my sharp and caustic remarks?
6. Do I Have Bottled Up Inside Me a feeling of hostility toward another?
7. Do I Repeat that which should be kept secret and then explain myself saying, "But it's the truth?"
8. When The Good Reptuation of another is being undermined, Do I Participate?
9. Do I Follow after the things which make peace, or do my words promote strife?

"Some of us don't know what we want, but feel sure we don't have it."

"Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults."

Assignments for today

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mark Mann
 Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
 Scripture Reading.....I Cor. 1:13-25
 Scripture Reader.....Zach Kelsey
 Opening Prayer.....David Gorski
 Closing Prayer.....Mark Mann

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
 Opening Prayer.....Ross Harkrider
 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