

The REMINDER

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

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Number 13

YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN TROUBLE WHEN...

"Because to every purpose there is a time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him, for he knows not that which shall be; for who can tell him when it shall be?" (Eccl. 8:6-7). The word "misery" in the passage suggests the aspect of trouble. Trouble is defined as being, "distress, affliction, to stir up, agitate; to afflict with discomfort or pain." As Solomon is quick to note, in life there will be times of trouble. No matter how pristine one's life may seem to be, rest assured that time and chance will pay a visit. We will face difficulty; however, when that time will come we haven't a clue.

"For affliction does not come from the dust, neither does trouble sprout from the ground, for man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward" (Job. 5:6-7). Eliphaz was extremely dour in his observations that he shared with Job in order to offer "comfort" in all his woes. How much comfort Job could garner from what he presented is another issue, but what he is saying is true. We live in a broken world due to sin. What Eliphaz was trying to get Job to realize was that neither he, nor any other person is immune from trouble. Eliphaz then sets forth, "But as for me, I would seek God, and I would place my cause before God" (5:8).

Job was not the only person in the Scriptures beset with problems. David was another who struggled with numerous trial, some of the trouble was inflicted by others, while some was brought on my himself. However, David had a source of strength as he noted in Psalm 9:9. "The Lord also will be a stronghold for the oppressed. A stonghold in times of trouble."

In the 107th Psalm, the writer points in vivid detail that God delivers the redeemed from the troubles of life. The key verse in this Psalm is verse 6, "Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He delivered them out of their distresses." As the Psalm concludes, the author asks a rather profound question, "Who is wise?" He then proceeds to answer by showing that the wise are those who give heed to what was spelled out in the preceding verses. God who is infinite in true loving kindness is a very present shelter in times of storm.

Nothing has changed since the days of Job, Solomon or David. We will face trouble. But we can learn from the thoughts and actions of those who serve as examples. They drew near to God. Ideally one shouldn't wait until times of trouble to turn ot God for shelter. James notes in his epistle, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (4:8). Paul on his part wrote to the Philippians, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (4:13). To the Romans Paul penned, "If God is for us, who is against us?" (8:31).

ruce Evans

Bulletin Board

Sermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Power to Carry Through"

PM Lesson - Weston Hodge

NEWS AND NOTES: As in past weeks, most of us should give thanks for the degree of health we enjoy. Some are not doing as well. Anna is better, and wants to be out of the house again, but struggles with ongoing problems. Deitrich is doing some better, and should be able to go home soon (if not by now). We have quite a few on the long term sick list. Keep them in your prayers.

Steve and Muffy are in North Carolina this weekend. Steve has a series with the church in Concord. Weston Hodge will be speaking tonight in Steve's absence.

There are quite a few meetings in the area in April. Announcements are on the bulletin board. Be sure to take a look at them.

Counting Blessings

*Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your joys by golden hours,
Never when life's worries call.
Count your nights by star, not shadow,
Count your days by smiles, not tears.
Count your age by friends, not years.*

"Found not your hopes on yourself, but on your God. For if you rest your hopes on yourself, your soul is troubled within itself, for it has not yet found anything about you that should make it secure." (Augustine)

"Hope itself is a species of happiness, and, perhaps the chief happiness which this world affords; but like all other pleasures, immoderately enjoyed, the excess of hope must be expiated by pain." (Samuel Johnson)

"Thoughts invite us, more than words and deeds, to continue in sin; for thoughts can be concealed while words and deeds cannot." (Soren Kierkegaard)

"One of the hardest things for the student to learn...is just the simple fact that brain-power is no guarantee for the rightness of thinking, that...a restlessly outreaching mind, unchecked by the humility of common sense, is more than likely to lead its owner into bogs of duplicity." (Paul More)

"The idea that yielding to temptation will reward the sinner is to be compared to a conjurer who runs around among people with a closed hand daring them to guess what is in it. Everyone runs after him. Once he stops for a moment and opens his hand, it becomes clear that it is completely empty."

Assignments for today

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mark Mann
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....I Cor. 8:11-13
Scripture Reader.....Terry Walker
Opening Prayer.....John Moon
Closing Prayer.....Mark Mann

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith
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