

The REMINDER

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

Volume XXXIII

April 13, 2014

Number 15

GUESS WHO ??

The morning of January 12, 2007 a rather interesting experiment played out in a subway train station in Washington D. C. A world renowned master violinist was asked to perform, incognito, in the station while passengers scuttled by as he played. He played for 45 minutes, during which time 1,097 people passed by. Twenty seven people dropped money in his open violin case, totaling \$32.17. Only seven people spent any appreciable time listening to the music from Joshua Bell, who is described as being the "poet of the violin." What is striking is that two days before, Bell had used the same \$3.5 million Stradivarius violin for a sold-out concert where people paid over a \$100 a seat to hear him perform much of the same material.

The idea of a person not being recognized for his greatness isn't new. People get so caught up in what they are doing, where they are going and for the most part are oblivious to what is going on around them. While it is one thing to not recognize a virtuoso with a violin, it is something different when it comes to Jesus. "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (John 1:10-11). How could anyone overlook Deity? "For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones of dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:16-17).

Why did the people in Jesus' day, who were looking for the Messiah, not recognize Him for who He is? Maybe the answer to that question comes back to what people expect. People today don't expect world class musicians to play in a subway station for "chump change". In the days of Jesus they didn't expect the Messiah to be from of humble circumstances. They longed for and expected the Messiah to be a physical king and establish a physical kingdom - not the head of a spiritual kingdom. This thinking was in evidence up to the time Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)

To say that the people in the first century were blinded as to God's purpose in sending His Son, would be an understatement. He came to effectively deal with sin (John 1:29), fulfill the Law and the prophets (Matt. 5:17-18), and build His church/kingdom (Matt. 16:18f). All of which He did as is in evidence by numerous passages of Scripture, not the least of which is Col. 1:13-29.

That day in the subway, how many hundreds of people passed by and missed the beauty and genius of a master musician? So sad that people are too busy to appreciate beauty. However, what is ever more pathetic is how many millions have not awakened to the beauty and majesty of Jesus, Who Is The Christ. He walked with man, and most did not recognize Him. Not much has changed, has it?

Bruce Evans

Bulletin Board



AM Lesson - Jack - "Witness of Monuments"
PM Lesson - Steve -

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've had several out with what looks like a stomach flu. Seems to be of short duration. Hope everyone is better today. Nothing serious to report about members health. Give thanks for that.

We have some returning from vacation this week. Mark and Kim returned late Wed. night, but left again Friday or Saturday. A birthday celebration for Mark Zindler. Don't know if they'll be here today or not. Mitchell and Katie and family have also returned. Erin and Charlotte are gone today. Ruben and Eloise are due home shortly. Be thankful for our freedom and prosperity that make travel possible.

Several gospel meetings in the area this week and next week. Check the bulletin board for specifics.

"Modesty is the gentle art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it."

"There are two kinds of people in the world and in your church: Those who agree with you, and the bigots."

Sola Scriptura

When Martin Luther rebelled against the "salvation of works" ethic of the Catholic Church, he took the position of "sola scriptura", Scripture only.

This brings up a vital question: "How shall one approach the Bible as one's only authority in religion?" Luther opted for doing any moral and reasonable activity in religion or worship not specifically forbidden by the Bible. Another Reformation leader, the Swiss reformer Huldreich Zwingli, took a different approach. He decided to allow only what the Bible specifically approved, saying that the Scriptures are "the rule of faith and practice for Christians" and "the New Testament presents a normative pattern."

Dirk Phillips in the sixteenth century book *Vindication* wrote, "It is evident that whatever God has not commanded and has not instituted by express commands of Scripture, He does not want observed nor does He want to be served therewith, nor will He have His Word set aside nor made to suit the pleasure of men."

So, does silence approve or forbid? Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11).

A revolutionary concept!

Assignments for today

Sunday, April 13, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....I Cor. 11:20-34
Scripture Reader.....Rudy Black
Opening Prayer.....David Gorski
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Robinson
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

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire