

The REMINDER

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

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HAMAN'S HANG-UP

In the book of Esther we read of a successful man by the name of Haman who allowed his pride to become his downfall - or hang-up. After Esther became queen, King Ahasuerus promoted Haman to a position above all the other princes in his court. Haman delighted in recounting how he had been advanced above the others and how that only he was invited to a special banquet with the king and queen. He even thought, "To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?" Haman had a bad case of the big-head!

The proud seem to have the least patience with those who fail to recognize their greatness, so Haman was filled with wrath when Mordecai the Jew (Esther's foster father) "bowed not down nor did him reverence." At the suggestion of his wife and friends, Haman had a gallows prepared for hanging Mordecai while at the same time, unknown to him, the king was preparing to honor the same lowly Mordecai. Mordecai was honored. Haman mourned. His intent to destroy the Jews in the kingdom was revealed to the king and proud Haman never had held his head higher than when hung from the gallows he had made for Mordecai. As God says, "pride goes before destruction".

Big heads and proud hearts will always be a hang-up for God's people. To every Haman God warns, "be not proud" (Jer. 13:15). Number one on a list of things hated by God is the "proud look" (Prov. 6:17), and "every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 16:5). It is obvious that pride is sin, as plainly stated in Prov. 21:4, and often a deceptively subtle sin. So much so, that some have been known to pride themselves in their humility. It is as obvious as it is detestable in others, yet seldom detected within self. Therefore, every Christian would do well to search his life often and carefully for such sin.

Too, pride has a lot of promoters that need identifying. One of the more prominent is achievement. As with Haman, promotion may promote pride. Almost anything that advances one above others is apt to advance self-esteem as well. Success usually comes hard: success with humility comes even harder. Especially is this true with financial success. Nothing promotes pride quicker than a little money and material possessions. God warns the wealthy not to be highminded (I Tim. 6:17), nor to glory in their riches (Jer. 9:23-4). Other pride promoters to be wary of are education, nationality, association with the "someones" of society - or almost anything else that would gain the praise of the world.

Finally, pride must be viewed as an especially dangerous sin in regard to its effects. Not only does it make men forget God (Deut. 8:14-18), it hinders repentance because the proud are reluctant to admit wrong doing. It makes saving face more important than saving the soul. Pride not only makes one think too highly of himself, it makes him think too little of the "Mordecais" about him. It resents reproof and correction. No wonder "God resists the proud..." (James 4:6)

van Shipley

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Storm Warnings"
PM Lesson - Jack - "The Hour of Darkness"

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: Most of us continue in good health. There are many on our list of continuing health problems. Do continue to remember in your prayers the Knapp's grandson, Deitrich. He, and his family, will have difficulties for quite some time. Pray for quick adjustment to difficulties and many years of peace and joy.

In the past month or so we have supplied travel funds to John Smith for a trip to Sierra Leone and to Bob Buchanan to South Africa. These, of course, are preaching trips. There are reports on the bulletin board about details on each trip. I'm glad we are able to help in efforts like these.

There is a draft of the new directory on the table. Please check that your information is complete and correct.

The only meeting we have notice of is at the Ave. N church in Rosenberg. Details are on the bulletin board.

"There is more hope for a self-confessed sinner than a self-conceited saint."

Jesus Loves Me

Around 1880 Anna Warner penned the words that were later extended and set to music by William Bradbury and continue to be sung around the world:

"Jesus loves me - this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to him belong -
They are weak, but He is strong..."

While often considered a children's song, these words are nevertheless profound. When Karl Barth, the famous theologian visited the United States in 1962 and lectured at Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago, he was asked to summarize all the millions of words he had written. He is reported to have thought for a moment and then relied, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

God's love for sinful humanity is the Bible's theme. The tremendous truth expressed in John 3:16 is reiterated throughout the Bible. "God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us"

(Rom. 5:8)

Hugh Fulford

"About the time we learn to make the most of life, the greater part of it is gone."

"So live that when you die the mourners will outnumber the cheering section."

Assignments for today

Sunday, April 20, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Scripture Reading.....I Cor. 15:1-4
Scripture Reader.....David Haley
Opening Prayer.....Zach Kelsey
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Chad Smith
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