

The REMINDER

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

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BIGGER THAN GOD

Nothing in this world is more important to our well-being in the next life than having a right relationship with God. Getting right with God is the supreme and urgent need of every sinner and staying right with God is the most pressing need of every saint. Whatever is allowed to come between us and our right relationship with God is extremely serious and needs to be recognized and treated effectively. In terms of influence, that which hinders a man in serving God becomes bigger than God Himself. When that hinderance is attributable to people it can only mean that certain individuals exert a greater influence than God. Whether out of regard for men or a reaction against man, none is larger than the one who separates us from our God.

For instance take the kind of allegiance to parents that hinders some in obeying the gospel. When honoring parents becomes more important than honoring God then they are made bigger and more important than God Himself. It is not often that a choice has to be made between following God or parents, but when it does God says, "He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37). No parent worthy of that title would want to supplant God in the lives of their children. We spend our energy and time trying to impress them from infancy with the need to obey God. Anyone whose favor is more coveted than God's has become bigger than God.

But such "bigness" may be offered to enemies as well as family and friends. That's the way it is when we allow personal feelings towards other Christians to hinder serving the Lord. How many non-Christians have blamed their plight on the "hypocrite" in the church? Without realizing it, they actually compliment the hypocrite by allowing him to have more influence on what they do and become than God. They even allow the hypocrite to determine where they will spend eternity! No hypocrite deserves much influence.

Nor does the preacher or other well meaning Christian deserve this much influence in our lives. How many have "quit" over some misunderstanding or conflict with the brethren. Others have compromised their convictions and gone into error over similar personal differences and feelings about being mistreated. Are our ties with God and truth so fragile and unimportant? We must never leave God and truth just to get away from certain men, yet spite and pride have become the seed of apostasy for many a disgruntled brother. It's as though Jesus had not said, "do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you" (Luke 6:27-28). Allowing any person, friend or foe, to come between you and God is to make him bigger than he should be and allow him to displace God in your life. May we never allow men to mean more to us than God.

author unknown

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Pitfalls of Marriage"
PM Lesson - Harrison - "Our Greatest Need"

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 seem to be doing fine on the health front. Anna still struggles with pain, and the doctors can't find a source, or much to relieve it. Continue to pray for her and all the others on our long term list. Mike and Linda are better. They were out Wed. night with sinus infections. Do pray for Rona Gorski and Deban Becker. Their time for delivery is close. This will be Deban's third, so they are experienced, but it's Rona and David's first. There is excitement and a little terror with the first child.

Steve and Muffy are in New Mexico today. A meeting with the church where Kim's family attends. Anita and I will be gone Wed. night. Going to New Orleans to pick up two of our grandkids. Bringing them back here for a couple of days. Wish us luck.

Several of our college students are completing their semester exams and will be heading home. They are a blessing to us and will be missed. But several of "our" students will be coming home. Greet them warmly.

Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember; To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty".
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

author unknown. Taken from Lincoln Bible Reader

Assignments for today

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Mike Pharris
Hymn Director.....Weston Hodge
Scripture Reading.....2 Cor. 4:7-10
Scripture Reader.....Mitchell Howell
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black
Closing Prayer.....Mike Pharris

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Michael Krueger
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez
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