

The REMINDER

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

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Number 18

A FRIEND OF SINNERS

The day was Sunday, almost four years ago. A number of us had arrived early at the building and were standing in the parking lot talking. This was always one of the joys of assembling, talking with friends - brethren who offered a welcome reprieve from the vileness in the world. Suddenly a loud, abrasive sound shattered the serenity of our pre-Bible class routine. We all turned at the same time to see what some would call a "Hell's Angel" type riding a big Harley, and he was pulling into our parking lot. This man was certainly not a person one would expect to be interested in God. From his shoulders up there was nothing but hair with his nose and eyes barely discernible. Tatoos lined his arms which seemed to fit quite well with his T-shirt and Levi's attire.

To our amazement this man was actually planning on attending services. I will never forget my first thought when I realized he was staying: "What is he doing here?" I noticed, however, that I was not the only one with such a thought; few people went out of their way to greet our visitor. To my surprise the next Sunday brought another visit from this man. It was then I learned his name was Pete and that not every member had avoided him the week before. One member saw what so many of the rest of us were not seeing - a precious soul who was lost and needed to be found. That member was not prejudiced by appearance, and had invited Pete to his home to study the Bible.

Within a few weeks Pete was baptized. Within a few more weeks he was teaching others. Within a year he had married a daughter of one of the elders. Within three years he was preaching. And today Pete is one of the finest preachers I know.

In Luke 17:34 the Pharisees are recorded as making one of the few truthful accusations against Jesus. They said He was a friend of publicans and sinners. Earlier when the scribes saw Jesus eating in the house of Matthew where many publicans and sinners were gathered, they murmured against Him. Jesus replies, "They that are whole have no need of a physician but they that are sick." Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Tim. 1:15). Jesus said, "If you love them that love you, what thank have you? And if you do good to them which do good to you, what thank have you? for sinners do also even the same" (Luke 6:32-33).

James strongly warned against offering a lower standard of treatment to the man who comes into the assembly "in vile raiment" (2:1-13). James further points out that we "are become judges with evil thoughts," and again, "If you have respect to persons, you commit sin..." Now, what was that thought I had? "What is he doing here?" He should be welcomed and taught. Read Luke 15. It contains the parable of the lost coin, lost sheep and the two lost brothers. It also teaches about the Lord's attitude concerning the lost. He always sought them.

When you go to worship this week, take a look around. Don't look for those you know, look for those who need you. The man who "found" Pete isn't a preacher. But he is a friend of sinners.
Condensed from an article by Berry Kercheville

Bulletin Board

Sermon
Notes:

AM Worship - Steve
PM Worship - singing. Lee is the director

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: Congratulations to the Davila family with the wedding yesterday of David, Jr. and Maria. Hope the entire family is blessed by this occasion.

Not much on the health front. Laura Claburn came thru her procedure just fine. Josh and Caleb Owen were with us last Sunday as Caleb had appointments at MD Anderson on Monday. All looks good, and he is almost finished with this round of treatments. Many in our extended family and friends need our prayers for improvements to their health. Count your blessings.

We had a successful trip to New Orleans last week, in that we made it home safely with two of our grand kids. Barbara is out of town for the week. Many others of our number will be out as well. Be sure to welcome our visitors. Some of "our" college students should be home for the summer. Welcome back.

Tonight is singing night. Lee is in charge of the worship period.

Power To Overcome

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death" (Rev. 12:11).

1. Blood of the Lamb. Sin is a most potent poison. It defiles and destroys. Yet, it stands powerless before the pure blood of the Lamb! (I Peter 1:18-20). Sin may close Heaven's gates, but the blood of Jesus opens them once again.

2. Word of their Testimony. Where ignorance thrives, Satan holds sway. Allow the knowledge of Jesus to permeate and Satan's power is soon diminished. The early disciples went everywhere "preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

3. Loved not their own lives. Jesus never commands that we martyr ourselves. He only commanded that we be faithful. (Rev. 2:10). It may cost us our life here, but we gain eternally.

All that the Christian needs relative to life and godliness has been granted. The Christian needs assurance - and John gives him that. The victory over Satan is already his! "But thanks be unto God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57).

Norm Petersen

"It is difficult to take advice from some people when you know how badly they need it."

Assignments for today

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Jack Smith
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald
Scripture Reading.....2 Cor. 5:14-21
Scripture Reader.....Chad Smith
Opening Prayer.....Jim Carithers
Closing Prayer.....Jack Smith

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Lee Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jesse Knapp
Closing Prayer.....Jack Smith

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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