

The Reminder

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

“The One Hope”

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6)

The true follower of Christ knows what the one hope is, but also knows it may be viewed from two standpoints. Objective hope is eternity with God and those who have allied themselves with Him. This hope burns brightly within us, and motivates us in some way (subjective hope). Peter describes it as a living hope that helps us overcome the tribulations and trials of this life (1 Peter 1:3-8).

We also know that this hope is impossible without Jesus. In Eph. 2, Paul mentions some who were separated from Christ and therefore had no hope and were without God in this world. Now, I’m sure they had many hopes, just like we do. They hoped to see the kids grown and well married, to hold and rock grandchildren or to cruise around the world. All of these hopes are not sinful, they are rooted in this world. There is only one hope that transcends the earth, and it is founded in our belief in the son of God who can save our soul.

“Called with one hope of that calling”. This is not a relationship that involves a natural birth, like the Jewish system of faith. The gospel calls each of us (2 Thess. 3:14) to be members of the body of Christ. Each must answer for himself or herself. It should be a conscious decision made by an informed mind. The Lord has provided plenty of information for our reasoning and has answered our questions in the scripture if we are willing to listen. But the end of the answer (if positive) has only one possibility, heaven. If you expect something else as a final outcome, you will be disappointed.

Since our faith isn’t a blind faith, our hope isn’t a false hope. Paul argued in Romans 1 that: “The invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made” (v20). The Gentiles were without excuse in turning to idols. God often requests or requires us to examine His claims to see their validity. The resurrection of Jesus is our assurance that we will be raised. Our continual obedience to Him and His way of salvation is the foundation of our hope.

The “ones” of verses 4-6 will never be ours until we attain the character of verses 1-3. The hope is real, the Savior is sure. JLS

SUNDAY
JANUARY 11, 2015

BELLAIRE
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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



Morning Lesson

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Steve Garrett

Evening Lesson

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Jack Smith

News and Notes:

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

“Good Counsel”

Thousands of years ago, a young Chinese emperor called upon his family’s most trusted advisor - Confucius. “Oh learned counselor, “ said the emperor, “you have advised my father and grandfather. What is the single most important advice you can give me to rule my country?” Confucius replied, “The first thing you must do is to define the problem.”

Tom Moore has written, “Many unhappy people cannot put their finger on what is really causing their distress. Many unfulfilled people cannot even tell you what it would take to satisfy them. Many have no clear idea what their real needs, desires or priorities are. Because they have never defined the problem, they spend a lifetime wandering with very little to show for the pilgrimage.”

Whether it is ruling a country or seeking to govern our own lives correctly, it is good counsel to first define the problem. The Scriptures reveal that man’s biggest problem is sin. The greatest tragedy of sin is that it separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and the peace that comes from a close relationship with Him.

Having defined the problem, we need a solution. That solution is Jesus Christ. What’s the key to governing our lives properly? First, define the problem, then trust and obey Jesus. That’s the greatest counsel of all.

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - J. Smith
Hymn Director - M. Robinson
Scripture Reader - C. Cecil
Mark 15:21-47
Opening Prayer - A. Morolez
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Opening Prayer - B. Ward
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

Bible Classes

Acts
Holy Spirit
Exodus and Deuteronomy
Graded Classes for Children