

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 19 NOVEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Today, after worship, there is a get together at LaFayette Park** down the street. Bring your lunch and come enjoy time with brothers and sisters! Everyone is welcome!
- **New Members!** We have two families that have decided to formally join the family here at Bellaire. Welcome!
 - **Ian and Melanie Davies**, 18833 Towne Ridge Lane, Webster, TX 77598.
 - **Kerry and Julia Kendrick**, and **Katherine**, 1900 Yorktown St., Apt. 333, Houston, TX 77056.
- There are several already traveling, and will be more in the coming days. Please pray for safe trips and restful holidays! Also, remember that there will be a **singing on Wednesday night** in lieu of regular Bible classes.
- **Sharon Alexander** has been in a lot of pain with sciatica and has been unable to get around much. Pray and check on her!
- Please remember **Johnny Martinez** in your prayers, he is receiving dialysis three times a week.
- Remember those rebuilding from Harvey: **Banks, Benthalls, Guzmans, Haleys, Hurds, Starks, Stechs, and Washington.**
- Please continue to pray for **Bethany Moon and Lauren Underwood**, our expectant mothers.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Mickle, and Pat Butler.**
- **Sermon Title: Mature Faith**

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Haley
Mitchell Howell
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
John Moon
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - A. Morolez
Song Leader - G. Williams
Opening Prayer - J. Tom
Lesson - D. Broadwell
Communion Talk - J. Knapp
Announcements - B. Haley
Closing Prayer - M. Howell

BIBLE CLASSES

Luke (Auditorium)

- Steve Garrett
- Brian Haley

Ezra/Nehemiah

- John Moon
- David Haley

Classes for children

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Rescuing Thanksgiving

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:20)

Allow me to be cynical for just a moment. Is it not ironic that in modern America, the day designated as ‘Thanksgiving’ is not even over before we are knocking down the doors (and each other) to buy more stuff to cram into our houses that are already crammed with too much stuff? Anymore, it seems like Thanksgiving is just a brief pause in a season dominated by materialism and commercialism. Although, for many of us, the pause is hardly meaningful because we are too busy gorging ourselves and staring at a television screen.

Okay, that’s enough. Let me honestly say that I am not “Anti-Thanksgiving.” The memories I have of going to Papa and Bobo’s (yes, that’s what we called my maternal grandmother—don’t judge) with all the aunts, uncles, and cousins, spending hours around the table, returning time and time again to the endless spread of fall dishes and desserts, watching the Razorbacks on television and playing in a football game of our own are some of the sweetest I’ll ever have in this life. Truthfully, I can’t even say I’m “Anti-Black Friday,” because I took advantage of a BOGO deal on sport coats at Jos. A. Bank last year. No, I’m not Anti-Thanksgiving, in fact just the opposite. I’d like to rescue Thanksgiving and bring it to its proper place of importance.

It is fascinating to me that in Romans chapter 1, where Paul famously brings a harsh condemnation on the utter moral degradation of the Gentile world, he lists among the root problems, *“They did not give thanks.”* Is unthankfulness really that serious? Is it really the beginning of the road that leads to *“all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men”*? Paul seemed to think so. These people lost sight of where (Who) everything came from, stopped giving thanks, and became consumed with themselves, the things they had, and the things they wanted. *“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper...”* Wait, are we talking about the Roman world of Paul or 21st century America?

But this isn’t an article for America, this is for us. Unthankfulness is just as devastating for individuals as it is for a society. Clearly it has always been a problem, but in our technologically advanced age of luxury, it is far too easy to forget where (Who) everything comes from. But taking time to acknowledge the Lord and give Him thanks helps put everything in perspective. Real thanksgiving reminds us of our dependence on God and helps us to sort everything He’s given us into its proper place of importance (or unimportance). So, my prayer for myself and for you is that this week will be a time of restful reflection on the things of God. Who knows—maybe we should pass on that second piece of pie; maybe we should turn off the game and visit with each other for a few minutes; maybe we should leave the big screen TV at the store. But absolutely we should reattach our hearts to heaven and let the Lord refocus our busy and distracted lives.

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)