

The Reminder

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



SUNDAY
JULY 20, 2014

BELLAIRE
church of Christ
8001 South Rice Ave
P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, Texas 77402
www.bellairechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study
5:00 PM Worship

WEDNESDAY:
7:30 PM Study and
Devotional

UPCOMING MEETING:

Ralph Walker
October 23-26

“The Value of Quiet Benevolence”

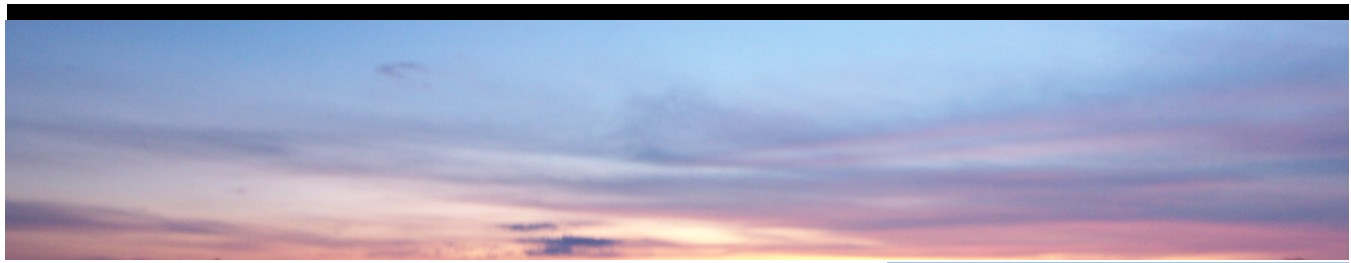
An irritable brother who always kept some grievance or issue loaded, called a meeting with the preacher and the four elders of the local church.

He leapt right into his complaint, arguing that all five brethren make a good living, drove late model cars and lived in nice homes, yet he argued: “You don’t ever share your good fortune.” His audience listened patiently and then after the outburst, one of the elders said: “How do you know we do not share?” There was no answer. Apparently the agitated brother assumed they didn’t, or wanted to believe they were miserly. The elder calmly explained, putting an end to the event: “God does not expect us to prove to you or to anyone the extent of our benevolence. In fact, the larger amount of one’s benevolence will not be known on earth.” In support of this, he read Matthew 6: 1-4. “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

The story illustrates, among other things, a common misunderstanding of individual benevolence. The propose is not to satisfy witnesses, elicit the applause of men, or prove anything to detractors. One’s sharing ought to be so private and unpublicized, when the right hand gives, the left hand has no idea. It should be as Harriet Beecher Stowe once wrote of someone she believed had the spirit of Jesus. She said of this person, that “He had a habit of quiet benevolence,” doing more good silently than was common of most people in their public charity. (Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1897).

I read a few years ago of a mystery unfolding in the world of college fundraising. “During the past few weeks, at least nine universities have received gifts totaling more than \$45 million, and the schools had to promise not to try to find out the giver’s identity” (AP, April 16, 2009). I have no idea how this story developed; it was not, to my knowledge, followed up with additional reporting, except perhaps to the IRS. It may turn out that some individual or group of individuals are engaged in quiet benevolence, determined to avoid the typical praise of public, ostentatious giving.

Are you a quiet giver? There is rich spiritual value in this kind of giving. Value for you and the recipient, having this truth connection: “with such sacrifices, God is well pleased,” (Heb 13:16) Warren Berkley



Morning Lesson

"Truths About Salvation"
Jack Smith

Evening Lesson

"Wealth"
Steve Garrett

News and Notes:

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitch, and Don Hurd.**

Most of the news this week deals with all who are on vacation. Robert and family are gone for a week or two. The Kruegers were gone on Wed. night. Not sure when they will be home. Mike and Linda leave this week for a week or two. Nita and I leave on Wed. for 10 days. There are probably others. Be safe and come back with a smile.

Remember Laura in your prayers. She spent more time than anticipated in the hospital, and I believe her dialysis has begun. Jan is to have surgery early in Aug. Ask the Lord to take good care of these folks.

Baptistry is repaired. Just a little lingering odor from the fiberglass resin they added.

Steve will be the preacher for the next two Sundays, though the first Sunday in August will include an evening song worship. Encourage him.

Constant Complainers

Some people are forever and eternally complaining. They criticize nearly everything that is said and done. Nobody ever exactly suits them. Jesus condemned them as possessing a disposition contrary to that which should characterize a citizen of His kingdom. "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" (Matt 7:3) The constant complainer:

Has the wrong outlook on life. He sets himself up as a judge of others. In doing so he manifests an arrogant attitude unworthy of one who claims to follow Jesus. He judges where Jesus said "Judge not" (Matt 7:1)

Is self-centered. He expects everyone to listen patiently to his complaints, but if someone complains of him, he becomes highly offended and deeply hurt. The constant complainer is one who is trying to cover his own insecurity by tearing down others. Jesus said, "For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you." (Matt 7:2)

Is blinded to his own faults. He is so busy condemning what others say and do that he doesn't see the "beam" in his own eye. In reality he is blinded to his own faults. He commonly mistakes his complaining of other to be a matter of being "Frank and Honest". There is no virtue in being unable to control one's tongue.

Discourages others. Many good plans have been ruined by the complainer. I have had many good days ruined by having to listen to such. The harm one does in complaining is untold.

We all perhaps are guilty of too much complaining. Examine yourself - are you one who criticizes too much?
Earl Kimbrough - adapted

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Mann
Hymn Director - R. McDonald
Scripture Reading - Titus 2:11-14
Scripture Reader - D. Gorski
Opening Prayer - Z. Kelsey
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

BIBLE CLASSES

Psalms - Room 107-109
James & Hebrews - Room 102
Bible Geography - Room 204
Graded classes for children