

# The Reminder

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



**SUNDAY**  
**AUGUST 10, 2014**

**BELLAIRE**  
church of Christ  
8001 South Rice Ave  
P.O. Box 1029  
Bellaire, Texas 77402  
[www.bellairechurchofchrist.org](http://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

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## UPCOMING MEETING:

Ralph Walker  
October 23-26

## “Do You Understand What You Are Reading?”

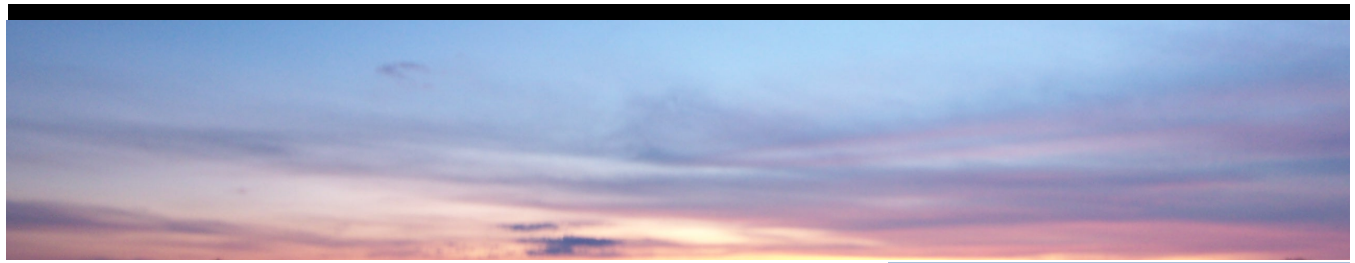
“Do you understand what you are reading? This is the question asked by Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch in [Acts 8:30](#). The eunuch's response was that he could not unless someone guided him. This was not because the Ethiopian official lacked the intelligence. The evidence from God's Word suggests that the man was educated and intelligent. The Bible tells us that he was a man of "great authority", possessing a personal copy of the scroll of Isaiah, an expensive luxury. The Ethiopian was eager to learn and immediately Philip got into his chariot to study with him. Philip, led to help this man by the Holy Spirit, begins at this portion of scripture ([Isaiah 53:7, 8](#)), and preaches the Gospel of Christ to him.

Do you understand what you are reading? A question you must ask yourself when endeavoring to study the Bible. Jesus frequently addressed the difference between simply hearing the words through one's ears and actual comprehension of the teaching (he who has ears to hear...). Even the men who walked with Jesus and witnessed His power still had trouble understanding His message ([Matthew 15:17; 16:9, 11](#)). There is milk and meat in the Bible ([I Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14, II Peter 3:16](#)). When we sit down and commit to studying the Bible, we must commit to understand the text by thorough examination.

Nothing in the Bible should be read without knowing some basic facts about the text: to whom is it written, purpose of the writing, culture of the audience, historical situation, and the author's relationship to the audience. When people use the Scripture outside the context it was intended by the Holy Spirit, false doctrine and confusion emerge ([I Timothy 1:6, 7](#)). When we try to bend the Word of God to fit within the world's boundaries, we fail to understand them ([I Corinthians 2:14-15](#)).

Decide before you start that you will commit to comprehend what you are reading. Be humble enough to seek guidance for things you do not understand. This may take some effort. Are we not willing to give greater commitment to understanding how to save our souls than we would studying a subject to increase our income at work? Grow through God's Word so you will be equipped for HIS work ([II Timothy 3:17](#)).

Tim Martin - adapted



### Morning Lesson

"A Future With Hope"  
Jack Smith

### Evening Lesson

"Lessons From A Boat"  
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.**

Several to keep in our prayers. Johnny Martinez has been having some difficulty with his health. Hope nothing serious, but remember him. Jan came thru surgery just fine. We are awaiting test results to see what other treatment might be needed.

Anita and I had a wonderful trip; fun but exhausting. Glad to be home. We still have some who are traveling, so keep them in your prayers. Some of our young people will be going off to college this week. We expect some others back from their summer vacation. Hope all goes well.

### Forgiveness

"Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" "I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus said to him, "but seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21-22)

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. Forgiveness breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness. While dying on the cross, Jesus said, "Forgive them" - the Roman soldiers, the religious leaders, his disciples who had fled in darkness, even you and me who have denied him so many times - "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Forgiveness feels unnatural. However forgiveness is not a feeling ... but a choice of the heart.

If I refuse to forgive, I will become a victim of intense inner torment. The root of bitterness will literally eat me alive. I will become walled in a concentration camp of my own making.

One day, my friend was reminded of a vicious deed that someone had done to her years before. But she acted as if she had never heard of the incident! "Don't you remember it?" she was asked. "No, I distinctly remember forgetting it." she replied. She had made a conscious choice to forgive ... a conscious choice to continue forgiving.

We can't control others. We can't make choices for others, only for ourselves. We can trust God, and we can control ourselves. We can do our part to pursue peace.

*-Calm My Anxious Heart - adapted  
Linda Dillow*

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Pharris  
Hymn Director - R. McDonald  
Scripture Reading - Heb. 6:1-6  
Scripture Reader - S. Camp  
Opening Prayer - T. Walker  
Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - M. Krueger  
Opening Prayer - J. Moon  
Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

### EVANGELIST

Jack Smith  
Steve Garrett

### ELDERS

Mark Mann  
Matt Miles  
Mike Pharris  
Jack Smith

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### BIBLE CLASSES

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