


# The Reminder

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

## “The Offensive Christ”



In Galatians 5:11, we read of “the offense of the cross.” To some in Corinth, nothing was as distasteful as the preaching of the crucified Savior. In Athens, Paul was mocked for preaching the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 17:12). To be perfectly honest, Christ was a “rock of offense” and a “stone of stumbling” to many among His own people and in the Roman Empire (Rom 9:33). Why did Jesus offend so many? He was despised in the region of Gadarenes because people there thought more of swine than of lost souls (Mk 5).

The Master Teacher offended the Pharisees because of His blunt rebuke of their customs and traditions (Matt. 15:7-12). The absolute authority of the Lord caused a sword of separation within some families (Matt. 10:34-35). When Christ comes on the stage of life, the human scene must give attention to His claims. One cannot be neutral in regard to the Man of Nazareth. Jesus plainly reminds us in Matthew 12:30 that men are either “for or against” Him. But why was our blessed Redeemer such a controversial person?

### His Perfection Made Others Uncomfortable:

To be in the presence of the Son of God made anyone else’s fame pale into nothingness. His speech, action, attitude and endeavor formed a matchless framework of beauty. The scribes wanted in power when Jesus unfolded the Scripture. The righteous pretense of the Pharisees disintegrated in the marvelous purity of the Messiah.

Arrogant claims of the Sadducees were easily put asunder by one clear word of logic by the Savior. Caesars and Herods were always dwarfed by the heavenly countenance of the Redeemer. Since very few people enjoy being “upstaged,” Jesus was intensively hated.

### His Salvation Was Spiritual, Not Temporal!

“Hosanna” had become a popular cry among the Jews by the time the Lord walked the Judean soil. Since the days of the Maccabees, it was a term of deliverance and meant simply, “Save us, we pray.” In Mark 11 is the story of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But, however brilliant the palm-strewn road may have seemed that day, our Redeemer was a bitter disappointment to the Jews because He came not to save them from Rome, but to save sinners from Satan’s hold. He told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” (Jn. 18:36), and those coming to Him for loaves and fishes went away distraught.

It is hardly conceivable that anyone as wonderful as Jesus Christ would have had as many enemies as He did. Many in His day coldly rejected Him. How could anyone spurn such an unselfish love? Even though we cannot answer these questions completely, it remains a sobering, heart-breaking fact that thousands of His day turned a deaf ear to heaven’s will, expressed so capably in Jesus, the son of God.

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**SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2014**

**BELLAIRE**  
church of Christ  
8001 South Rice Ave  
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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

Upcoming Meeting:  
Ralph Walker  
October 23-26





## Morning Lesson

"Another Boring Sermon"  
Jack Smith

## Evening Lesson

"The Secret to Change of  
Outlook"  
Steve Garrett

## News and Notes:

Please keep Don Hurd in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness.

Not much news on the health front. Anita seems to be fine, and should be at services today. Just a little scare last week, maybe a little further evaluation. I think Janice has surgery coming up in a week or so.

Several out of town, as usual. Curby and Melva are gone this weekend. So is Sharon Alexander. Hope last weeks travelers are all back.

Erin and Shelt'n are now worshipping at Fry Rd. Much closer to their apartment. Hopefully in a couple of months they can move closer in and be with us again.

Mike baptized Charley last week. Rejoice with them.

## Walk In Him

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and establishing your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7).

There may be those who receive and embrace Christ, but fail to **walk in Him** because they are not rooted in Him (cf. Mark 4:16-17). To be rooted in Him is to be *fixed* in Him--immovable and steadfast (1 Cor. 15:58). Without roots we waver and are easily removed. He desires continued growth in knowledge, love, and faith--for us to be **built up in Him**. This, too, with thanksgiving, for without Him we are nothing and can do nothing (Jn 15:5). Without His grace we wouldn't even be His or have an opportunity to grow in Him (1 Cor. 15:10). Give thanks for this, and do not let His grace toward you be without effect, but work and grow in Him today and everyday.

- Jason Garcia

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - J. Smith  
Hymn Director - G. Williams  
Scripture Reader - J. Knapp  
1 Peter 1:2, 18-25  
Opening Prayer - B. Ward  
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett  
Opening Prayer - M. Miles  
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

### EVANGELIST

Jack Smith  
Steve Garrett

### ELDERS

Mark Mann  
Matt Miles  
Mike Pharris  
Jack Smith

## NEW BIBLE CLASSES

- **Genesis** - John Moon
- **Gospel of John** - Steve Garrett and David Haley
- **Prayer and Providence** - Jack Smith
- Graded classes for children