

# The Reminder

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



**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2014**

**BELLAIRE**  
church of Christ  
8001 South Rice Ave  
P.O. Box 1029  
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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

Upcoming Meeting:  
Ralph Walker  
October 23-26



## “The Obedience of Faith”

How odd, that one of the Bible’s most fundamental teachings should have become so puzzling. God is not the author of confusion, but man is. And during the centuries since Jesus walked the earth, the very nature of the faith that saves has been obscured by an improper balance of principles.

Without controversy should be the straightforward declaration, “by grace you have been saved through faith...” (Eph 2:8). To deny the truth of this statement is to deny the gospel. But, as with other subjects, to isolate this verse to the exclusion of all others is to guarantee oneself the wrong perception. This verse surely tells us of salvation through faith itself. We should never question that we are saved through faith, but we should certainly arrive toward a better understanding of what faith is and how it is expressed.

Faith can be defined as a deep, abiding trust and confidence in God - but to stop there is to leave the picture incomplete. It is this notion that faith is nothing more than the intellectual acknowledgment that God exists, that has led many to think that He makes no requirements of us. After all, Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus is “the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Now faith, or belief is not the same as obedience. Saving faith cannot exist in a vacuum.

James 2:14 poses two critical questions; “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? That faith can not save him, can it?”. These are rhetorical questions; requiring no answer. A “faith” that does nothing cannot save anyone. Even demons believe that God exists (James 2:19), but no one believes they will be saved. No, faith needs something else to make it complete. James cites the example of Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son to God and asks, “Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?” (James 2:22).

So our earlier definition of faith needs to be amended. Faith is a deep, abiding trust and confidence in God, that creates a willingness to do what God says. Any definition of faith that excludes an obedient heart has failed to consider God’s Word completely. But just a note of caution is in order. Just as some men incorrectly deem faith to be mental assent of God’s goodness, others ignore faith and believe that righteousness lies in obedience. Both views are woefully wrong. No one will be justified before God on the basis of his obedience, for no one’s obedience is perfect (Galatians 3:1-11: Romans 3:23). Obedience for the sake of “scoring points” with God is an exercise in futility. The only obedience God will accept is that which is born of our faith in Him. A faith that refuses to obey is really no faith at all.

## Morning Lesson

"A Blueprint for Purity"  
Steve Garrett

## Evening Lesson

"When Strategy Replaces Faith"  
Jack Smith

## News and Notes:

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

I've been out of town most of the past week, so not a complete list of what's going on at Bellaire.

Today will be Connie's last official day as a "member" of Bellaire, though she will be an unofficial part of our lives for many years (mine especially). She works for Exxon-Mobile, and they've consolidated all their work to the Woodlands area. She will be moving there, and will worship somewhere in that area. Hope she "drops in" here regularly.

Next Saturday, Oct. 18 we will have a work day at the bldg. Inside and out. Deeper cleaning than usually occurs. We need a couple of pressure washers if anyone has them. Hope to begin around 9 am. If you come later you won't miss all the fun.

Remember the meeting and singing. Oct. 23-26

## A Very Important Question

During my 2nd month of nursing school our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank.

Before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely", said the professor. "In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you can do is smile and say hello".

I've never forgotten that lesson. I learned her name was Dorothy.

- Guideposts

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Miles  
Hymn Director - R. McDonald  
Scripture Reader - A. Caldera  
Rev 1:4-7, 18  
Opening Prayer - J. Carithers  
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - W. Hodge  
Opening Prayer - B. Haley  
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

### EVANGELIST

Jack Smith  
Steve Garrett

### ELDERS

Mark Mann  
Matt Miles  
Mike Pharris  
Jack Smith

## BIBLE CLASSES

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

"Our desire is to bring Christianity into every facet of life, not to bring every facet of life (the world) into Christianity."  
- Unknown

"I bought some batteries, but they weren't included."  
-Steven Wright