

# The Reminder

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



**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 26, 2014**

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

## “The Encourager Is Encouraged”

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established — that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me” (Romans 1:11-12).

THE PROCESS OF “ENCOURAGEMENT” IS RARELY A ONE-WAY STREET. Almost without exception, the encourager is encouraged in the very act of trying to encourage someone else. And the reverse is also true. By neglecting to encourage others, we deprive ourselves of much-needed encouragement that we might otherwise receive.

Paul’s relationship with the Christians in Rome is interesting. He expected, when he got to Rome, to encourage their faith, but he also expected to be encouraged by them as well. Great apostle though he was, he needed the mutual strengthening that would come from their association. He needed their strength hardly any less than they needed his. But his encouragement would come from helping them — not by saying, “What can you do for me?”

Perhaps the mutual nature of encouragement is one reason that so many of us spend so much time in the dark valleys of discouragement.

We spend so little time trying to encourage anyone else, it’s little surprise that we find ourselves so downhearted. Epidemics of discouragement should be expected in societies that are as self-centered as ours. One of the most disheartening things in the world is to be focused on whether others are lifting us up and brightening our spirits as they “ought” to be doing.

But even when we’re encouraging others, we won’t be encouraged if we don’t listen to ourselves. When we’re figuring out what the other person needs to hear, we usually discover things that we need to hear, but those lessons will be lost on us if we don’t listen to our own instruction. And really, why should our friends take our advice if we’re not willing to take it ourselves? “Physician,” our friends might say, “heal yourself!” (Luke 4:23).

But teaching — whether by instruction, exhortation, or encouragement — can be a wonderfully beneficial exercise. It can help both parties, the giver no less than the recipient. So look for somebody to encourage. Find out what truth they need to hear, and then listen to that truth yourself. You’ll be encouraged.

“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own” (Ben Sweetland).  
Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

## Morning Lesson

Ralph Walker

## Evening Lesson

Ralph Walker

### News and Notes:

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

We've had a great week in many ways. Also exhausting. Wed. night Patrick Brentlinger spoke to us during Bible class. We support him in the work in western New York. He had been in meetings in Dallas, and since that is closer than New York we asked him to detour to Houston (He liked Houston better, but don't tell your Dallas folks about that). He should arrive back in New York Monday night or Tuesday.

Then our gospel meeting began Thursday night. Wonderful to have Ralph Walker with thru the weekend. I write this before the singing and evening service, but I am confident it will be a great evening. Such a wonderful time. But even so, I look forward to a normal week.

Don't have any update on sickness among us. We do have several out of town. Alex and Shannon are in Tennessee. Others probably gone as well. Keep them in your prayers.

## Questions for Christians – A short quiz

1. Does the man who works on your car know you are a Christian?
2. If you had to go to heaven on the testimony of your next door neighbor, could you make it?
3. When you became a Christian, did the church gain a dependable member?
4. Which appeals to you most on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, attending worship services or watching your favorite TV shows?
5. If you should be called from the land of the living, is there any unfinished business in the Master's kingdom that should be taken care of?
6. If a friend should ask you what he must do to be saved, could you show him from the New Testament?
7. If the Lord should pay you a visit in your home for a few days, do you have any habits you would have to change while He was there?
8. Is heaven a "living hope" or just a fantasy?

Several times the inspired word teaches us to examine ourselves. 2 Cor. 13:5 reads, "Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves." This does not call for an examination of others, but does call for self-examination. Most people would quickly take a "marriage test" or "personality quiz" in a magazine. Should we do less in spiritual matters? How do we rate when we test our souls?  
JLS

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Miles  
Hymn Director - L. Williams  
Scripture Reader - T. Miles

Rev 7:13-17

Opening Prayer - M. Pharris  
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - M. Robinson  
Opening Prayer - J. Seale  
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

"The hardest years in life are those between ten and seventy." - Helen Hayes

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." - E. M. Forster

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." - Eleanor Roosevelt