

The Reminder

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



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 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

“When Our Love for Christ Grows Weak ”

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Reaching forward normally requires looking ahead, but there is a sense in which it also requires looking back. We will not reach forward to God as lovingly as we should if we don't regularly remember the crucifixion of His Son for our sins. If, as I believe, gratitude for grace is the most powerful motivator in the world, then the cross of Christ, the greatest and, on our part, the most undeserved act of God, should move us the most.

Yet as powerful as the cross is to move us in the right direction, we tend to forget it. It fades from our minds. But that is the way it is with all things that are important to us. If their reality and their importance are not constantly refreshed, they fade. And so it's no surprise that God designed the Lord's Supper to remind us on the first day of every week that He gave His Son to die for us. Anytime our passion for God begins to fade, the most important thing to do is return to the cross.

The old, familiar hymn said it very well: “When my love to Christ grows weak, when for deeper faith I seek, then in thought I go to thee, Garden of Gethsemane. / When my love for man grows weak, when for stronger faith I seek, Hill of Calvary! I go to thy scenes of fear and woe. / Then to life I turn again, learning all the worth of pain, learning all the might that lies in a full self-sacrifice” (J. R. Wreford).

It is, of course, the vicarious nature of Christ's death that exerts such an emotional force upon us — He died in our place, for our sins. “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him . . .”

Going back to the cross is a painful thing to do. No sensitive human being could think of the agony that was involved in death by crucifixion and not be gut-wrenched, but to know that our own sins made it necessary for God's Son to endure such torment makes us want to turn away from the scene in shame and sorrow. But there is no other way for us to be healed of what hurts us.

“For him to see me mended I must see him torn” (Luci Shaw).
Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

Morning Lesson

"Thrice At The Feet of Jesus"
Jack Smith

Evening Lesson

"Follow His Voice"
Steve Garrett

News and Notes:

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

I have nothing on the health of our members other than those with on going problems. We've had several at services lately dealing with one form of cancer or another. They are from several different cities and states. It's wonderful that we, Houstonians, have resources to help, and that we, Bellaire Christians, can welcome them with kindness and offers of help. We are in a great place to show true love.

I do ask that you keep the Benthall family in your prayers for the difficulties they are facing at this time. Larry and Sharon are in California, but when they return to us welcome them home. They will need our encouragement and strength for some time.

How Are You Taking Care of Yourself?

Doctors often ask this question of patients who come to them with a physical ailment. It is important for a physician to know what measures a patient is taking to improve their health or stave off debilitating health problems.

How about considering how you take care of yourself in other things? How are you taking care of yourself spiritually? Believe it or not, it is more important to take care of yourself spiritually than it is physically -- that is, if you believe in God and accept his word as the truth.

Physicians are concerned that we exercise, have the proper diet, and get regular checkups. We know this is good. Even more so is it important to exercise in godliness, feed on the word of God, and get a regular examination of our spiritual condition.

"Exercise thyself unto godliness: for bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Tim 4:7-8).

"As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation; if ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:1-3). Obedience to the will of God is the exercise we all need in taking care of our spiritual needs. Studying the Bible is the only spiritually healthy diet. Measuring our lives, our beliefs, and our religion by the Bible is the only reliable way to get a checkup from the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. - Unknown

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Mann
Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Scripture Reader - D. Gorski
Rev. 12:7-12
Opening Prayer - J. Martinez
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - L. Williams
Opening Prayer - J. Moon
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

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

"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson