


The Reminder

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

“Endearment”



If anyone has ever told you that you were “Dear” to them, then you’ve been paid a high complement. Yet regardless of the reaction of others, the responsibility is on our side to acquire characters that tend in the direction of endearment rather than estrangement. Consider this point from four different angles:

LOVED AND CHERISHED. To be “dear” to someone means that they feel a fondness and an affection for us. Are we easily loved and cherished? Are our characters and conduct such that they encourage endearment?

GREATLY VALUED. But “dear” can also mean “precious,” as in the remark, “In the fire, they lost many things that were dear to them.” Are we dear to our friends in this way? If our friendship were lost to them, would they lose anything of significant value in their lives?

HIGHLY ESTEEMED. The salutation “Dear Mr. Jones” is meant to convey respect. When others begin a letter to us in that way, does it take a stretch of their imagination to consider us with high regard or esteem? Has our relationship with them been worthy of their honor?

EARNEST AND ARDENT. If somebody said that a certain person “dearly loved golf,” that would mean that his or her attraction to that activity was more than casual. What about the passions of your life? Do you love whatever you love in such a way that it’s dear to you?

It would be a hardhearted person who would say, “I don’t care whether I’m endearing to anybody else or not.” And yet, many of us may find that we go to the opposite extreme. Wanting to endear ourselves, we say and do things that are not really very genuine, and things that are not very natural to us, for no other reason than to gain the favor of those whose approval we value. But hypocrisy, flattery, and unctuousness are not endearing, no matter how skillfully they may be employed. What people want is for us to be comfortable in our own skins, to work hard at being the best “us” we can be, and to extend ourselves to them naturally and honestly. When it comes down to it, most folks find snapshots more endearing than glamour shots.

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2014

BELLAIRE
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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

Morning Lesson

Hendrik Joubert

Evening Lesson

Steve Garrett

"Eyes to See"

News and Notes:

My apologies to Jonathan Hurd. I've written myself notes for the last several weeks to mention this, and it still slipped my mind. Jonathan was baptized about 3 weeks ago. He's been attending here most of his life. A wonderful young man and we were thrilled for him and his family. Welcome to God's family.

Hendrik Joubert will be speaking this morning. He's been here several times. We support him in the work in North Carolina. He will probably be at Kleinwood tonight. They help support him as well.

Many will be out of town this week. Probably the biggest holiday and travel week of the year. Next Sunday Steve and I will both be gone. Joseph Casimier, who worships with the Cy-Fair church will be speaking both morning and afternoon. Please be safe in your travels, and well be together again in a week or so.

"Psalm 139"

In Psalm 139, we are able to look into the heart of the psalmist and see a man who desires more than anything to stand approved in the sight of God.

The psalmist understood the **omniscience** of God, telling how God knew everything about him, nothing was hidden (:1-6). He also understood the **omnipresence** of God, revealing the inability of man to escape His presence (:7-12). He glorifies God in the power of God in Creation, holding up his own frail existence as a wonderful example of His Creation (:13-16).

He further tells of the greatness of God's word (:17-18) and of his desire for God to destroy the wicked (:19-22). He then turns again to himself and asks that God would "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (:23-24) He goes to the Lord in a desire to uncover his own anxieties and bring them to the One who can comfort him and overcome those same troubles. He then asks the Lord to look into his life and see if there was any hurtful thing in his life that would be a cause for grieving the Lord, with an intent to remove it, if found.

And finally, the psalmist desired to be led by the Lord in the way everlasting. Would we want our real self to be known - to the Lord?

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Pharris

Hymn Director - W. Hodge

Scripture Reader - B. Mann

Mark 10:32-34, 43-45

Opening Prayer - R. Black

Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett

Opening Prayer - M. Robinson

Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith

Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann

Matt Miles

Mike Pharris

Jack Smith

Bible Classes

Acts

Holy Spirit

Exodus and Deuteronomy

Graded Classes for Children

In reality, He **already** knows. The real question is: Do **we** want to know who we really are? Let us now consider the need for the Lord to search us, try us, reveal any wicked ways in us, and to lead us in the right way.

-Steven Harper