


The Reminder

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

"The Pursuit of Peace"



Peace is the absence of hostility. Peace seems to be an evasive goal. It is something almost everyone wants, but many do not have. Isn't that strange? Were I to ask you if you desired to be at peace with all men, undoubtedly you would say yes. We desire peace. We do not appreciate conflict. We hate violence and fighting, as we should. The Bible teaches us that peace is a pursuit worthy of our attention. In Hebrews 12:14 the writer commands, "Pursue peace with all men."

We should pursue peace with all men, because that is what God desires of all of us, a cessation of conflict, an elimination of opposition. But I'm suspicious that if Jesus were to ask us the question "Are you at peace with all men?" most of us, if not all of us, would respond with a resounding "NO!" Why is that? If everyone wants it, why don't we have it?

Maybe I don't have peace because I lose my temper and thereby create strife. An out of control temper will lead to an abundance of conflict. People at peace have a good temperament. According to Proverbs 15:18, "The slow to anger calms a dispute."

Maybe I don't have peace because I'm bitter. Hebrews 12:15 teaches us to, "see to it... that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble." When problems are left unresolved and transgressions left unforgiven bitterness gestates in our hearts. Even those issues which seem minor can grow into divisive disputes threatening our peace. To have peace, I must be willing to forgive and cleanse out of my life any root of bitterness.

Maybe I don't have peace because I'm too proud to admit I was wrong and ask for forgiveness. When I've made a mistake inciting men to anger, I must have the humility to see my fault and request forgiveness. That is the pathway to peace. Proverbs 28:25 warns us, "An arrogant man stirs up strife."

If you are not at peace with all men I can't tell you exactly why that is. There is a vast multitude of possible explanations. It could be my fault. It could be the fault of another. What we do know is that it is my responsibility to pursue peace (Hebrews 12:14). Although, sometimes no matter how hard I try, it will elude me. Some are not willing to do what is necessary to have it. Some would rather be angry and bitter. Some would rather cut you out of their life and prolong contention than join in the pursuit with you. Regardless, I should do everything in my power to achieve peace with all men.

What a marvelous example we have in our savior Jesus Christ, who Himself is called the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7). He, because of His love, left heaven to do the Father's will. He humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross, so that we could be forgiven of our sins. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit did everything in their power to bring peace between God and man. That was what Jesus accomplished with His sacrifice on the cross. That was what Jesus proved with His resurrection from the dead. That was the example Jesus left for us to follow. Paul writes to us in Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

- Jonathan Banning (edited)

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 2015

BELLAIRE
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www.bellairechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study
5:00 PM Worship

WEDNESDAY:
7:30 PM Bible Study



“You Are To Be A Blessing”

Morning Lesson

“Where is the God of Elijah?”
Steve Garrett

Evening Lesson

“Christianity In The First Century”
Jack Smith

News and Notes:

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

I've been out of town this week. We'll catch up on news during announcements today.

God blesses us as His children, and He expects us to bless others, even our enemies. God's blessings cannot be counted the list would go on and on He can do more than we can ask or think (Eph. 3:20). God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3).

Peter, tells us not to return evil for evil but rather a blessing. Jesus taught the same when he spoke to His followers from the mountain (Matt. 5:44). Being a disciple of Christ calls for an extreme makeover from what we were prior to confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord.

The blessing we receive involves being changed to be like Christ, being a blessing to others even our enemies, and living a blessed life (I Pet. 3:8-12). God's kindness calls us to be like His Son. We are to be like-minded, compassionate, loving, tenderhearted and humble (I Pet. 3:8). Peter calls it the "divine nature," and Paul calls it the "new man" (II Pet. 1:4; Col. 3:10).

The disciple of Christ receives a blessed life because he lives a righteous life, and chooses to do good rather than evil (I Pet. 3:10-12; Ps. 34:12-16). God's eyes and ears are open to us, and He hears our prayers. That is a great blessing!

Will you allow God to make you over to be like His Son? Will you accept the multitude of blessings He desires for you to inherit? If so, you will be a blessing!
- Ron Drumm (edited)

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Miles
Hymn Director - W. Hodge
Scripture Reader - A. Caldera
Luke 22:14-23
Opening Prayer - L. Williams
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - P. Selgas
Opening Prayer - D. Kimbrough
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

BIBLE CLASSES

- Acts
- Holy Spirit
- Exodus and Deuteronomy
- Graded Classes for Children