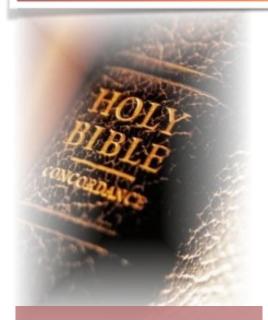
The Reminder

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



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

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

WEDNESDAY: 7:30 PM Bible Study

GOSPEL MEETING: November 13, 14, 15

- Fall Singing
- Jeff Wilson Lessons from Isaiah.

"An Analysis of Prayer"

"Pray then in this way..." (Matt. 6:9). It disciples were impressed with Jesus' reliance on communication with God: and rightfully so. He found much strength and guidance, and so can we as we learn from the Master. The "Lord's prayer" is provided as a formula, but it is supplemented in other places, or perhaps expounded on, as we look at Paul's instructions to Timothy or the prophets in the Old Testament. We sometimes use the acronym, "ACTS", to analyze many of the prayers we find uttered in calmer circumstances.

"A" - Adoration. "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name". This address or many like it make known to us to whom we are speaking. While God is our Abba Father, a term of endearment, His dwelling place is in a realm inhabited by spirit beings. Angels, archangel, cherubim, seraphim, and others bow before His majesty and might. When He speaks worlds are created or destroyed. Satan will be consigned to hell at a word spoken by God. Rev. 20:9-10. We approach Him thru the blood of Jesus, and no other way. Speak words that express your respect.

"C" - Confession. Confess everything to him, not just sins: our faith, our weaknesses, and our dependence. Do this with confidence as we realize we "cast our cares on Him because he cares for us" (I Peter 5:7). To "pray in faith, nothing doubting" takes years of spiritual growth and observation. Developing faith as big as a mustard seed isn't easy, but we continue steadfast in prayer trusting His wisdom is superior to ours. He cares for my earthly well being, but getting us to heaven is the first consideration.

"Thanksgiving" - "Of all human emotions, seems, from several passages, that the gratitude has the shortest life". What a sad statement, but often true. When we count our blessings, big ones, small ones. physical, spiritual, the list is endless. He provides all we are and all we have. Stop and meditate on that thought. We get in too much of a hurry to finish our prayer or get to more important areas. Take the time to look around you and give thanks for all He has done.

> "Supplication" - God has asked us to make our requests known to Him. Earnest prayers for governmental leaders, rulers closer to home, our daily plans, spiritual health and growth, physical health for self and loved ones, prayers even for our enemies. As with thanksgiving, so with supplication, the list is endless. And remember, we're talking to the heavenly Father who wants communication with us. He won't tell you to come back later when He is less busy.

There are other prayers that may not follow a particular formula. I wonder what Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego thought as they approached the furnace. or what Jesus was experiencing in the Garden just before his arrest, trial and crucifixion? These prayers would be intense (drops of sweat like blood) and focused. There is no wrong way to pour out your heart to God as long as it's done reverently. It's Paul saying to us to be "instant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). Any time day or night we can breathe a, "God help me". Nehemiah did just before he asked the king for a huge favor. It may be us before a car crash, or surgery, HELP. God will listen.

Sometimes the format of prayer is determined by circumstances. But only for those who have built a relationship with Him. Don't wait till the last moment. Jack

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Morning Lesson

"A Compelling Reason..."

Jack Smith

Sunday Afternoon

- ♦ 2:00 Song Service today
- Watch for announcements about Sunday evening bible studies

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 mentioned Wed. night the circumstances of Lisa Gedda, wife of Ady, who visited with us for a while and is known to many of you. Doctors are still running tests and she is on heavy medication. Please pray for her. Also keep in mind those who have just had babies and those about to deliver. Infants are a joy and a blessing, but a strain also, especially during the delivery process.

Lauren and Clark are out of town this weekend. Getting married. By the time you read this they will be Mr. and Mrs. Our best to them. Steve and Muffy are also gone this weekend. A celebration of their marriage some 26 years ago. Since it's a holiday weekend we will have quite a few gone. Pray for their safe return.

There are two singings and two gospel meetings posted on the bulletin board. Take a look at them and make plans to visit.

"THE "WHATEVER" SOCIETY"

George Barna of the Barna Group, a market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans, and the intersection of faith and culture, revealed sometime ago a fact that provides an interesting barometer of socalled religion in America: "For the first time since he's been doing research, the most oft quoted verse was not, 'For God so loved the world...' (John 3:16). It was, 'Judge not, lest vou be judged' (Matt. 7:1)." He goes on to say, "Even among evangelicals, we have succumbed to the hypnotic drumbeat of the incessant mantra: 'Who are you to iudae?"

An author commenting on this said the clear implication, among people of faith, is that none of us has the right to say, "That lifestyle is wrong, or that preacher is a false teacher, or that doctrine is heresy." In fact, this commentator goes on to say that the one word that could describe our society is "WHATEVER"!

- "A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's: She changes it more often."
- Oliver Herford
- "When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick."
- George Burns

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Opening Prayer - J. Knapp Hymn Director - R. McDonald Lords Supper Lesson - H. Banks Announcements - J. Smith Closing Prayer - L. Williams

EVENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer - J. Knapp Hymn Director - G. Williams Closing Prayer - L. Williams

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Brian Haley Mark Mann Matt Miles Mike Pharris Jack Smith

DEACONS

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

BIBLE CLASSES

- Joshua and Judges (In the Auditorium)
- Great Lessons from Jesus (In Room 204)

DIRECTORY UPDATES

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