

The Reminder

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

“Stillness is Joy”

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

NOWADAYS, ONE REASON WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT JOY IS THAT WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT STILLNESS. In this age of the world, most of us are busy with a myriad of priorities and projects. And we pride ourselves in it. The person whose schedule is packed has more prestige than the fellow who doesn't have much to do. But joy — real, spine-tingling joy — is in seriously short supply.

We'll try to define “stillness” in a moment, but just think, by way of contrast, how unlikely it would be for joy to surface in the kind of lives we lead. Our “busyness” produces so much clamor and clatter, the voice of joy is drowned out. It simply gets lost in the shuffle. Even if joy were to appear, it would go unnoticed.

But what does it mean to be “still” before the Lord? It doesn't mean being physically still, though stillness of the body is often involved. And it doesn't mean not saying anything, though that is often involved as well. “Stillness” before God means reverence, humility, openness, and forgetfulness of self. It means putting our minds into a thoughtful posture.

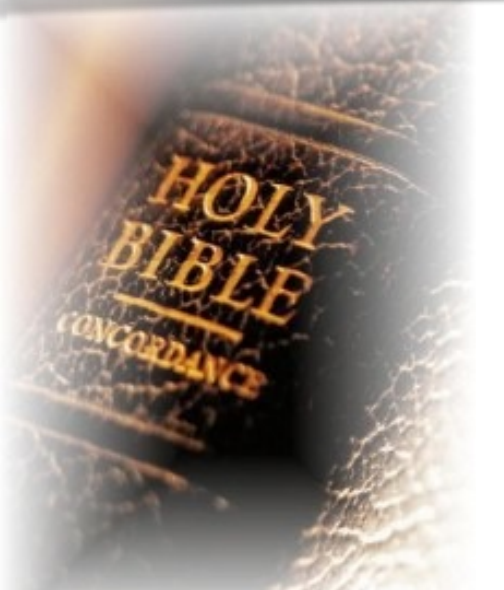
It means having our activity stilled and our words hushed by a compelling sense of the power of God Almighty. Above all, it means having a servant's readiness to obey: “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9).

I suggest that it would be rare for a person to experience genuine joy if he or she were not mentally disposed in the manner we've just described. That is the only kind of environment in which real joy can make an appearance. Just as happiness eludes those who pursue it, joy is even harder to bring under our own power. It doesn't come on command, but rather it is experienced, often quite unexpectedly, by those who are still before the Lord. Unstill people are simply not good candidates for joy.

So God's instruction to us is this: *Be still, and know that I am God.* We shouldn't obey that instruction selfishly, simply so we can have the joy we want. Nevertheless, we won't have any joy if we don't obey it. Without a reverent stillness at the center of our hearts, joy has no chance to break through the noise of earthly life. Of all the killjoys in the world, irreverent busyness is the worst.

“The heart that is to be filled to the brim with holy joy must be held still” (George Seaton Bowes).

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 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.



Morning Lesson

"A Compelling Reason: The Church"
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.

Mark mentioned to us Wednesday night that Kim has two family members who may come to Houston for medical treatment. Baby Eliza is doing OK, but had some genetic tests done that may require a consult here. Also a 14 year old cousin, Skyler, who has some difficulties. Keep them in your prayers. Hope to meet them soon. Anita's niece, Rachel had some cardiac tests run on Thursday. She is ok, but there seem to be some congenital difficulties she will have to deal with.

On a lighter note, keep Sarah and Ryan in your prayers. They have a baby due any moment. I write this early Friday and haven't heard anything yet about a birth.. It was great to see "our" three new ones on Wednesday night.

Steve and Muffy are in Maryland this weekend. Steve is preaching there.

Michael and Joanna's new address: 3315 Signal Hill, Friendswood, 77546. Congratulations to them on the new house.

"Nine Rules of Happiness"

Rule # 1 Live a simple life. Don't plan too many things each day. Be temperate and moderate in lifestyle.

Rule # 2 Spend less than you earn. This may be difficult to do, but it pays big dividends in contentment and peace of mind.

Rule # 3 Think constructively. Store useful thoughts in your mind. As one thinks in his heart—so is he.

Rule # 4 Cultivate a flexible disposition. Resist the tendency to want your own way. Try to see another person's point of view.

Rule # 5 Be grateful. Begin each day with a prayer of thanksgiving for all your blessings. Let God know you are grateful.

Rule # 6 Rule your moods. Your mental attitude is all important in living at peace with others.

Rule # 7 Give generously. Intelligent giving of your time, talents, personality, and money will bring great joy.

Rule # 8 Work with the right motives. Seek to grow in favor with God and man, seeking his will first in your life.

Rule # 9 Be interested in others. As we serve others, we reap happiness as a by-product of a life of self giving.

- Robert Notgrass

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament.

ASSIGNMENTS

Morning Service

Opening Prayer - B. Ward
Hymn Director - G. Williams
Lords Supper Lesson -
M. Pharris
Announcements - J. Smith
Closing Prayer - B. Mann

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

email: clanton4@gmail.com