

The Reminder

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

“Are You Really Listening?”

Someone has rightly said, "Sermons are not particularly meant to be enjoyed. They are intended to change people's lives." Teaching is the Lord's means of drawing people to Himself (John 6:44, 45). Thus, the sermon is an integral part of the worship assembly.

In this regard, preachers have an awesome responsibility. They are told, "Pay close attention to yourself and your teaching" (1 Timothy 4:16a). Most preachers give much prayer, thought, and study to their sermons.

Hearers, too, have an awesome responsibility. They are told, "Take care what you listen to" (Mark 4:24). Jesus also told them, "Therefore, take care how you listen" (Luke 8:18). Sadly, many never give much thought or effort to get more out of sermons. They allow various things from fussy children, their own daydreaming, and idle chit-chat, etc., to distract them from listening to God's message. Don't let distractions distract! Hearers need to prepare to hear.

One way to prepare is by intending to get more out of sermons. However, this requires concentration, effort, and the right attitude.

Another way to get more out of a sermon is by bringing a Bible and taking notes. Using a Bible helps the hearer to see "whether these things be so" (Acts 17:11). And, taking notes is an excellent way to keep the mind from wandering.

Finally, some physical preparation is necessary if one is to get more out of the sermon. Some come to worship too tired and too sleepy because they stayed up too late on Saturday night. Effort that ought to be given to scriptural, spiritual worship must be spent struggling to stay awake. A good night's rest before Sunday will help one be alert and at his or her best for worship.

It is certainly true that the preacher must be prepared to preach the sermon. But, the hearer, too, must be prepared if the sermon is to accomplish its intended purpose.

Mark Hanstein

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 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

Jeff Wilson

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.

Do hope all are well today. Robert should be with us, but maybe not 100%. He's making good progress after his surgery. Barbara spoke to Anna last week. She is still in West Virginia. Had a car accident recently and totaled her car. She is ok, just sore. She plans to come back to Houston if she can get a new car before the snow starts to block the roads. And, yes, that is strange to Houston folks.

Our list of expectant parents just got longer. John and Bethany are expecting a baby boy in the spring. Congratulations to them. The condition isn't contagious, but the emotions are.

Our gospel meeting concludes today. I expect it was a wonderful occasion. Good singing, good lessons, good company. How blessed we are!

The youth devotion is this afternoon at 2:00 at the Smith's house.

"Think On These Things"

The average sermon contains 5,000 words. Most preachers deliver at least 90 sermons per year. This totals 450,000 words per year. An average full-length novel contains 50,000 words, so this means that a preacher is producing the equivalent of nine full-length novels each year. Whew! No wonder I feel tired! In twenty years a preacher produces the equivalent of 180 full-length novels. In fifty years that would be a whopping 450!

How many authors do you suppose could produce nine full length novels each year for twenty (or forty) years, using the same basic theme and "plot" without sinking to the depths of repetition and boredom even if he could do it at all? Can you imagine the study, preparation, research, time and effort that would go into each project? Neither can I! But it does answer a question that sometimes bemuses brethren concerning what preachers do. One thing for sure, preaching is no place for the lazy, unmotivated person who is looking for a soft way to make a living.

"Raisin cookies that look like chocolate chip cookies are the main reason I have trust issues."

WHO ARE WE?

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

ASSIGNMENTS

Morning Service

Opening Prayer - T. Walker
Hymn Director - R. McDonald
Announcements - M. Miles
Lords Supper Lesson -
D. Haley
Closing Prayer - D. Haley

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