

The Reminder

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



SUNDAY
JANUARY 3, 2015

BELLAIRE
church of Christ
8001 South Rice Ave
P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, Texas 77402
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Schedule of Services
Sunday:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY:
7:30 PM Bible Study

“I Am Resolved...”

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, the god of gates and doors, of beginnings and endings. In fact, his statue in the Vatican museum has a head with two faces, one looking at the end of the past and one looking at the beginning of the future.

That is not unlike our perspective today, as we have just watched one year come to an end and witnessed the arrival of another. Last Sunday, our minds were most likely on year-end closeouts and family get-togethers. But since those are now behind us, we turn our attention to resolutions for the new year. The good we did last year we will try to do more of in 2014. And the unpleasant memories of the past 12 months provide lessons to learn and hope for brighter days ahead.

When we make out our resolution list, we usually do so with the thought of *trying* some new diet or *attempting* to quit some habit. If those doesn't work, at least we gave them a shot. But that is not the way the word “resolution” is meant to be used. It actually means to “make up your mind, to decide firmly, to determine.” For instance, Barnabas encouraged the new Christians in Antioch “with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord” ([Acts 11:23](#)). Nothing half-hearted about that.

As we stand looking in two directions today, considering the past and planning for the future, we ought to say with a convicted heart, “I am resolved.” To put it another way, “I have decided, I am determined, I have made up my mind.” That involves more than simply trying.

Be resolved to walk more wisely.

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise” ([Eph. 5:15](#)). Earlier in the chapter, Paul admonished the Ephesians to “walk in love” (5:2) and to “walk as children of light” (5:8). In this verse, he wrote, “be careful how you walk.” The King James Version has “walk circumspectly,” literally meaning “look around.” Fools rush in. Christians walk wiser than that.

Evil is so prevalent in our world that if we're not looking around, we will walk right into it. We have vices and devices available to us that seemingly strip the shame and disgrace right out of sin. Look around. Be careful. Walk wiser.

Be resolved to treasure your time.

“Making the most of your time, because the days are evil” ([Eph. 5:16](#)). The English Standard Version translates that “make the best use of your time,” and the KJV, “redeeming the time.” 2015 is gone; we can't get it back. But we can determine with a resolute heart that we will not squander the present. We can redeem the time by rescuing what we have left from waste.

We won't do that until we realize just how precious our time is. Every minute and opportunity has value. And we only have a fixed amount left. Let's make the most of them.

Be resolved to serve where you are needed.

“So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (5:17). We must learn to appreciate what God wants for our lives. The will of the Lord is that we make wise choices with the opportunities He sets before us. That includes serving one another instead of just looking out for ourselves. - Bubba Garner, edited



“One Thing I Have Asked (Ps. 27:4)”

Morning Lesson

“11

Steve Garrett

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.

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple.

Though he wasn't perfect, David truly was a man after God's own heart. He wanted nothing more than to be with God--to **dwell in the house of the Lord**. It was his fervent desire to be in God's presence until the end of his life. David didn't consider serving God as burdensome or think that he would ever grow tired of being with God. If you were to ask a random stranger what they wanted out of life, the vast majority would say anything other than "Be with God". As Christians, we have all sorts of pursuits and responsibilities (as much as anyone) in this life. What sets us apart, however, is the ruling desire of our heart and our chief pursuit--to be with God, to live with Him eternally, and to see His beauty with our own eyes. Is He what you truly long for? Do you earnestly desire to have unbroken communion with Him, and live in His presence? Christ has provided the way, and thanks to Him we can approach the Creator of the universe with confidence, asking for His grace and mercy (Heb. 4:16). Still more, when this life is done, we can look forward to dwelling in His house forever.

- Jason Garcia

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. Haley
Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Announcements - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - R. Black

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

- Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians - Steve Garrett
Auditorium
- Children's Bible Stories Revisited - Lee Williams
Room 102
- Graded classes for children

Directory Updates

email: clanton4@gmail.com