

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 27 AUGUST 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Let's keep each other in mind through this storm. Several have evacuated and will be traveling in the next few days. Stay in touch with the church family and see who may be in need.
- **Jim Carithers** is recovering well from his recent fall. His sister came to stay with him last week, and the two of them left Thursday for her house in Dallas to escape the weather.
- Continue in prayer for our expectant mothers, **Bethany Moon** and **Lauren Underwood**. Both ladies have had some difficulty so far so please pray and see what can be done to be helpful.
- **Michael and Joanna Krueger** are out of town this weekend after the passing of Joanna's grandmother. Pray for safe travel and for the comfort of Joanna and her family.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Mickle, and Pat Butler.**
- **Sermon Title: Parable of the Two Sons**
- **Calendar Items:**
 - Our new **Bible class quarter** starts next Sunday (9/3). If you are scheduled to teach and cannot, please see Alex Morolez.
 - The monthly **singing and prayer** service is next Sunday, 9/3.
 - In two weeks (Sunday, 9/10), we will have a congregational **potluck lunch** at the Bellaire Community Center.

WHO ARE WE?

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

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

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

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - D. Broadwell
Song Leader - R. McDonald
Opening Prayer - T. Walker
Lesson - S. Garrett
Communion Talk - J. Seale
Announcements - B. Haley
Closing Prayer - J. Martinez

BIBLE CLASSES

Psalms (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell
- Michael Krueger

Classes for children

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Surviving the Thorns by: Luke Woolbright

Editor's Note: I have never met Luke, but he just completed the same summer preaching internship that I did in Minneapolis, MN back in 2014. Part of the internship involves writing regular bulletin articles, so I thought I would publish one of his articles for our edification.

“And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns come up and choke them out.” – Matthew 13:72

The thorny soil is a deceptive place for Christians. This is a soil that receives the intended seed, is fertile, and has sufficient depth. However, the soil is corrupted with the seed of thorns and weeds, which will grow up with the intended seed and kill what is planted.

This is the image that Christ gives for the impure heart. Christ says for those whose intentions and desire are divided, their fate is the same as this dead plant. They start to grow because the word of God enters their heart, but they let things of the world which oppose His word take root in their heart as well, and thus, His word is choked out and they never bear the fruit they were intended to.

The outcome of allowing the thorns of worldliness in your heart is tragic. This person can never become what God intended them to be, since their lives are fruitless. And as those who do not work in the kingdom neglect God's mercy and grace, their lack of spirituality discourages and drains their spouses, families, and brethren.

Paul Earnhart said it well of those focused on the world, stating, “Such disciples are [just] decorative plants. Don't expect anything lasting to come from [their lives]”. The word was not planted in us without reason, but rather, so that it would grow within us and produce God's goodness through us.

Yet we must understand that as long as we live the devil will put up a fight. He will attempt to plant seeds of the world in our hearts at every turn.

Jesus warns us of four of them. One is the worry of the world. Many worry about things they cannot control, sometimes prioritizing earthly responsibilities over prayer, study, and our relationship with God. But remember what Christ has said about the futility of worry (Matthew 6:19-34). A second is the deceitfulness of riches. Wealth and property always seem to offer security, but they are incapable of satisfying the soul (Ecclesiastes 5:9-10). A third, added in Mark 4:19, is “the lust of other things.” And a fourth is in Luke 8:14, “the pleasures of life,” placed over God.

Beware of the shortcut of thorns. You cannot simply ignore them and push them out of your mind. This is like spending an afternoon cutting weeds in your garden, only to watch them grow again tomorrow. Thorns must be uprooted. We must allow God to renew our minds and hearts through our faith, prayer, and meditation on His word. The implication of Christ's teaching is this, the only way to survive the thorns, is to remove them entirely.