

The Reminder

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

“Striving”

“Man must strive, and striving must err” (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe). Making a real effort almost always means that we will make mistakes. Yet the possibility (or even the probability) of stumbling is not necessarily an argument for standing still. Errors notwithstanding, it often makes a lot of sense to keep striving.

Athletes know the difference between “playing to win” and “playing to avoid losing.” The former is a positive, give-it-all-we’ve-got force, while the latter is simply a defensive posture, a game plan that has no higher goal than the avoidance of mistakes. Yet in life, as on the athletic field, the conservative attitude that always plays it safe is rarely the one that achieves great results, and most of us realize that there’s more honor in striving and erring than in not striving at all. “Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat” (Theodore Roosevelt).

The word “strife,” however, can have a bad connotation, and so we need to consider whether our striving is the good kind.

We need to make sure of two things: that our tactics are honorable, and more important, that our goals are worth fighting to achieve. Bertrand de Jouvenal asked the pertinent question when he said, “Year by year we are becoming better equipped to accomplish the things we are striving for. But what are we actually striving for?” Lest we become so preoccupied with the struggle that we forget what the struggle is about, we need to review our goals frequently and upgrade them if necessary.

Some people seem to think that the less pain and difficulty they experience, the happier they will be, and so they never do anything except take the path of least resistance. For them, the main thing in life is to avoid unpleasantness. Yet there’s an irony to human life, and it consists in the fact that tranquil things like peace and joy come not from rest but from struggle. The happy life is not the life of constant relaxation; it’s the life of conscience-driven *labor*. What we want is not the life of leisure; it’s the life of “strife” . . . in the good sense!

There’s life alone in duty done,
And rest alone in striving.
(John Greenleaf Whittier)

Gary Henry

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2015

BELLAIRE

church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY:

9:30 AM Worship

11:00 AM Bible Study

5:00 PM Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 PM Bible Study



“What Day Is It?”

Morning Lesson

“Four Mistakes in Matt. 19”
Jack Smith

Evening Lesson

“Growing in the Lord and in His Promises”
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.

We've had a bout of mishaps lately. Just look around at all the casts folks are wearing. Seems to be almost a fashion statement. Please be careful whether at work or play. Brian and Deb are going thru a difficult time with some virus. One that's making the rounds takes a couple of weeks to recover. Keep them and others in your thoughts.

Tonight is the youth devotional at the Smith's house. It's also the women's Bible study at the bldg.

We almost always have folks traveling. The Benthall's are visiting Sharon's sister in Miss. Steve leaves next week for a business trip to Japan (home office for his company). He'll be gone two weekends.

Our next gospel meeting is March 13-15. Shawn Jeffries will be the speaker. He's preached here several times while he was working with Dowling Rd. church in Beaumont. Should be a great weekend.

A few days ago I heard a friend recount an experience in the rearing of their daughter. It was his task to take her to school every day. At times she would be depressed, distressed, or be in an otherwise bad mood. He made it a practice every day to ask, “What day is it?” At first she would reply, “Tuesday” or “Wednesday”. When this did not satisfy him, she would say, “A sunny day” or “a beautiful day.” This also was not the answer he wanted. Finally it came to her what day it was. “This is the day the Lord hath made...”, she would answer.

Do you have “good days” and “bad days”? Of course all days are not the same, yet all days are days the Lord hath made. Our days may be filled with events and happenings that will try our souls, yet it is still the day the Lord made. The footnote in the ASV on Romans 8:28 says, “... God worketh all things with them for good, even to them that are called according to His purpose.” There are two factors in good being found in anything. Man must love God, and answer His call. When this is done, God will work all things to man’s good. It may not be pleasant or even the thing we desire, yet God can work it for good.

Don't think you can make it today? Remember what day it is.
(Selected)

“The world needs fewer man-made gods and more God-made men.”

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Miles
Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Scripture Reader - C. Cecil
Luke 23:20-38
Opening Prayer - B. Ward
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - R. Black
Closing Prayer - M. Miles

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

DEACONS

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

BIBLE CLASSES

- Acts
- Holy Spirit
- Exodus and Deuteronomy
- Graded Classes for Children