

The Reminder

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

“Worthy to be Loved”

“I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8).

WHY DO WE LOVE GOD? Is it because His attributes so often result in benefit to us personally or because He is simply worthy to be loved? Do we love God for His sake or for our own?

An utterly honest appraisal of our hearts will often reveal that our seeking of God has been more a seeking of certain blessings from God rather than a seeking of God Himself. Very few of us are not indicted by these words from Thomas Merton: “They respect God as a Master. But their heart does not belong to Him. They are not really interested in Him, except in order to insure themselves against losing heaven and going to hell. In actual practice, their minds and hearts are taken up with their own ambitions and troubles and comforts and pleasures and all their worldly interests and anxieties and fears. God is only invited to enter this charmed circle to smooth out difficulties and to dispense rewards.”

But a “true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness” (Jonathan Edwards). Our devotion to God must be akin to Job’s.

Although Satan sneered, “Does Job fear God for nothing?” (Job 1:9), the truth was that Job’s faithfulness reached far beyond the benefits he had been receiving from God. When every other reason was stripped away, Job did what was right simply because it was right. He loved God because God deserves to be loved.

It may help to try to look at love from God’s side. Can we imagine our plight if, in deciding whether to love us, God had ever asked the question, “What’s in it for Me?” If any part of His love depended on our ability to “help Him solve His problems,” there would be no love! Apparently, He loves us because we are His creatures, simply for our own sake. And we are to love Him because He is our Creator, simply for His own sake. Love’s joy has to do with giving, not getting. The moment our main focus shifts from the Beloved to ourselves, true joy begins to disappear. “Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with you, not to avoid the calamities of this world, nor so much to attain the joys of heaven, as simply for love of you” (Thomas More).

“Love for God springs from His own excellence rather than from our need of Him” (James M. Houston).

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

SUNDAY
MARCH 22, 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

5:00 PM Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 PM Bible Study



“I Saw A Man Fall”

Morning Lesson

“Joseph - From Slave to Prime Minister”
Jack Smith

Evening Lesson

“6 "If's" - Living a Faith That Is Real”
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.

So glad spring break is over and we can be together again. Welcome back all you travelers. Busy day for us. Youth Devo is tonight at the Smith's house. Also Women's Study at the bldg.

We've had several bouts this winter with one virus or another. Olivia had to go home Wed. night before services. Not feeling well. Linda Pharris had a week of bronchitis. Hope she can be with us today. Terry Kornfeld was also sick on Wed.

Steve is in a meeting in Concord, NC today. He will be home tomorrow. Muffy and Ashland are in the Dallas area for a wedding. Anita is in Alabama. I leave tomorrow for a few days and will bring her home on Friday.

Jeanie Dodd, a Christian from Oklahoma is in Bellaire Gardens for rehab after surgery. She would love some visitors. Address is 4620 Bellaire Blvd. Room 120. You'll enjoy her.

It was raining in downtown Sydney (Australia) today, and everyone was hurting - except those thoughtful ones who had taken an umbrella. One strong, young man ran across the street but as he stepped on the sidewalk, his feet slipped on a steel plate that covered a sewer and he fell flat right there before the crowd of pedestrians - and immediately in front of me. He went down hard, and none of us laughed - we uttered exclamations of sympathy. But I thought: every day some strong man or woman falls and goes down hard - into the mire of sin. What do we do then? Do we step on them - kick them deeper into the gutter? or do we reprove them with kindness and admonish them with sympathy? We may be able to lift them up you know, and thus save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20).
Leslie Diestelkamp

Prejudice is a wall of fear built on the sands of suspicion surrounding the city of insecurity.

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Mann
Hymn Director - W. Hodge
Scripture Reader - C. Cecil
John 3:14-16
Opening Prayer - J. Knapp
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - Z. Kelsey
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

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

- World Religions
- John and Romans
- Graded Classes for Children