

The Reminder

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

“ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WEAK”

The Messiah's attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words, "A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench" (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church we may be guilty of doing the very thing our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member will be "sound" in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church, a model church.

A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each newcomer is viewed as a potential threat. If he's not going to "line up" we don't want him. Weaker members are handled with a "shape up or ship out" attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and weak children of God.

While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing these "bruised reeds" back to health we may be there crushing them. While He cups His hands around those fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, reprov'd, rebuked and exhorted; but with all longsuffering and with a view toward strengthening them. "Admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all" (I Thess. 5:14). Ask not what they can do for the church, but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that "bruised reed," there is hope. Don't crush it! As long as there is a burning fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don't extinguish it! Go and learn what this means.

Bill Hall

SUNDAY
MAY 17, 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



“Anxious Thoughts”

Morning Lesson

Bill Beasley

Evening Lesson

Bill Beasley

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.

The Jones family visited with us last Sunday, Christians from Pine Bluff, Ark. Friends of the Washington's. The wife/mom of the father/daughter came here for a cancer eval. She has pneumonia, and isn't doing well. Please pray for them.

Bellaire members seem to be doing fine. No serious news that can be reported at this time.

Youth devo and Women's class are both tonight after services.

This Wed. night is to be the last service where the Selgas family will be officially part of us. They are moving to Ft. Worth. A sad day for us as we lose this wonderful family. But Justin and his new wife should be here today as they begin their journey together.

Don't know if the Miles family will be back today or not. They were out of town for a wedding. I'll be leaving tomorrow night for Atlanta. Should be home Friday.

Bill Beasley will be preaching today. We support him in the work in Lincolnton, NC.

When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.

Worry, fear, and stress would all qualify as "anxious thoughts". Our minds can be filled with all of the things that *have* gone wrong or *could* go wrong or *will* go wrong. In the context of this psalm, the enemies of God's People caused the writer to be anxious. Yet, he found solace, comfort, and delight in the "consolations" or promises of God. The place where he landed was a place of faith and trust in God--the Lord has been my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge (v. 22). Anxiety is wrapped up in fear and worry, perhaps that's why we sometimes use the terms interchangeably. Jesus commanded us to "not be anxious" (Matt. 6:31). How do we achieve this when one worry seems to lead to another? The same way the psalmist did: think of the consolations of God. The Spirit says, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and anything worthy of praise, DWELL on these things" (Phil. 4:8 emphasis mine). We must actively work to dismiss anxious thoughts and realign our focus on the things God would have us think about. In this very same passage, Paul instructs us to "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). There will never be a time when prayer isn't necessary and critical. God desires that we cast all our anxiety on Him, because He cares for us (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7), so let's lay all those troublesome things at His feet and trust that He will help. - Jason Garcia

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - J. Smith
Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Scripture Reader - T. Miles

Acts 17:1-3

Opening Prayer - J. Martinez
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

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