

The Reminder

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

“The Crown Of Righteousness”

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

If Paul was confident of anything, he was confident of God’s righteousness. God is “the righteous Judge.” He can be counted on to do what is right. And part of God’s righteousness is the fact that He will reward those who have been faithful to Him. Having kept the faith, Paul was confident that his earthly life would be crowned with victory when he stood before the Lord.

When Paul spoke of the “crown” of righteousness to be given, he used the Greek word *stephanos*. This was not a reference to the royal crown of a king but rather the victory crown of an athlete. Paul had “fought the good fight . . . finished the race . . . [and] kept the faith” (v.7) — and he was in no doubt as to the result. His decision to keep on running, when he might have given up and quit, would be recognized by God as a victorious decision. A righteous God will not fail to reward those who have persevered.

The possibility of apostasy shouldn’t diminish our hope of receiving the crown of righteousness.

Yes, we need to be humbled and sobered and urged to be careful (1 Corinthians 10:12), but we don’t need to be doubtful about our salvation if we choose to remain faithful as Paul did. Nor should our emphasis upon God’s grace mean that we don’t look for Him to reward us. He is, after all, “a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

But notice that Paul speaks of the crown being given to those “who have loved [the Lord’s] appearing.” Today, we can have Paul’s same confidence concerning the crown of righteousness, but only if we have his same passion for the Lord’s return. God forbid that we should be so in love with this world that we wouldn’t be overjoyed to hear that it was all coming to an end this very day. Paul’s attitude was, “O Lord, come!” (1 Corinthians 16:22).

Our fondest hopes should be set on the “not yet” part of the faith more than on the “already.” Christianity is about receiving the crown of righteousness — so we ought not to dread the day of our death (or that of the Lord’s coming) any more than a runner dreads to cross the finish line. To get to the finish is why we run!

“Life bears love’s cross, death brings love’s crown” (Dinah Maria Mulock Craik).

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6, 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

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 PM Bible Study



Morning Lesson

“”

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.

“Four Letter Words”

Many four-letter vile words are spoken today, much to the dismay of those who are pure in heart. However, some four-letter words need to be spoken more! These words need to not only flow from the lips, but they need to be evident in the way people live, especially those professing to be Christians.

FEAR (REVERENCE)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”
Psalm 1:7

HEAR

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
Matthew 1:15

SINS

“Confess your sins to one another.”
James 5:16

OBEY

“Since you have in obedience to the truth...”
1 Peter 1:22

LOVE

“This I command you, that you love one another.”
John 15:17

KIND

“And be kind to one another.”
Ephesians 4:32

WORK

“Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”
Philippians 2:12

PRAY

“Pray without ceasing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:17

AMEN

“Blessed be the Lord forever!
Amen and Amen.”
Psalm 89:52
- Ron Adams

WHO ARE WE?

A group of Gods children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament.

ASSIGNMENTS

Morning Service

Opening Prayer - B. Ward
Hymn Director - M. Krueger
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - S. Camp

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