

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2016

the

Reminder

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

Beloved

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:4-6).

GOD IS “RICH IN MERCY,” AS PAUL WROTE. To Christians in and around Ephesus, he spoke of the “great love” with which God had loved those who were “dead in trespasses” but now had been made “alive together with Christ.” And to the Romans he wrote: “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7). In a very special sense, then, we may say that to be in Christ is to be among the “beloved” of God.

Two of the most basic challenges of the Christian life are to hear — really hear — the message of God’s love and then to act consistently with that great truth. To know ourselves as God’s “beloved” and to act like the people we are: these are the keys to consistency in our spiritual lives. If we verbalize the fact of God’s love but don’t really believe it, or if we fail to follow through and respond as we should to God’s love, then our devotion to God will falter. The only thing that can keep us going is gratitude for grace.

It should be the most obvious thing in the world that God is to be thanked for the gifts that His love has made possible. As James wrote, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). But we should constantly guard against the temptation to seek God simply for His gifts and His blessings. No gift that God could give us is any greater than His love, and it should be His love that is our primary interest. Indeed, all our Father’s other gifts would mean little if His love were not in them. And the same thing is true in regard to our love for Him. If we love God, there will be things that we are required to do in order to worship Him and to serve Him. Obedience to God’s will is not optional. But even more than the deeds that He requires, God is interested in the love that motivates those deeds (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). What He desires is for us to be His beloved — and to love Him for His love’s sake.

“A wise lover values not so much the gift of the lover as the love of the giver” (Thomas à Kempis).

By: Gary Henry

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Volume XXXVI

Who Are We?

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

Schedule of Services

Sunday:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:
7:30 PM Bible Study

**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
Matthew 5:14**

Number 52

SERVICE

Welcome – H. Banks
Hymn Director – L. Williams
Opening Prayer– R. McDonald
Morning Lesson – D. Broadwell
Communion Talk – A. Morolez
Announcements – M. Mann
Closing Prayer – D. Kimbrough

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

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

BIBLE CLASSES

Wisdom Literature

- Daniel Broadwell

Sermon on the Mount

- Harrison Banks
- Robert McDonald

Graded classes for children

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email: danieljady@gmail.com

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in
all the earth!
You have set your glory above
the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babies and
infants,
you have established strength
because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the
avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the
work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which
you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful
of him,
and the son of man that
you care for him?
Yet you have made him a little
lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory
and honor.
You have given him dominion
over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under
his feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the
fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the
paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in
all the earth!

-Psalm 8

NEWS AND NOTES

Continue praying for those of
our number who have on-
going health issues. **Bob
Stark, Deb Haley, Janice
Kimbrough, Jan Cooper,
Curby Stech, Laura
Claburn, Don Hurd, Fran
Spencer, and Johnny
Martinez.**

Please pray for strength,
healing and perseverance as
Pat Butler continues to battle
cancer.

David Davila is at home
recovering from heart surgery.

Our dear sister **Terri Sams**
passed from this life Friday,
December 23. Please pray for
Lennie, their children and all
who loved Terri. Their
Alabama address will be
posted on the back bulletin
board.

We have several members
traveling for the holidays,
please keep them in your
prayers as they travel to and
from their destinations.

Sermon Title Today:
Receiving the Message