

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 12 MARCH 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Join us today at 1:30 is our monthly singing and prayer service!
- We are heartbroken to report that **Fran Spencer's** lymphoma has spread. Fran has decided not to receive any further treatments, and the doctor estimates that she has about six months. Please pray for our dear sister and let's see what we can do to encourage her.
- **Pat Butler** received one more chemotherapy treatment this week, and is recovering. Please keep praying for her complete healing.
- **Willie Hurd** fell and is very injured to the point she can barely walk. Please pray and see what can be done.
- **E.L. Nickerson** went in this week with bronchitis, and is at home recovering. Also, **Dietta** will be traveling for a cousin's funeral.
- Pray for those traveling: **Anita Washington** is on the road, **Sharon Alexander** is with her daughter Holly Ann who just had chemo, **Mike Pharris** is with Deban and the baby, **the Morolez family** is in Big Bend, and **the Williams family** is gone for Spring Break.
- Continue praying for those with on-going health issues. **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Don Hurd, Fran Spencer, and Johnny Martinez.**
- **Sermon Title Today: We are His House (Ephesians 2:11-22)**
- **Reminder: Spring Gospel Meeting March 24-26: Choosing Joy**

WHO ARE WE?

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

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

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

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
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SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - S. Garrett
Song Leader - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - R. Black
Lesson - D. Broadwell
Communion Talk - L. Williams
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - B. Mann

BIBLE CLASSES

Old Testament Survey

- Brian Haley
- Auditorium

Gospel of Mark

- Daniel Broadwell
- Back Classroom

Classes for children

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The Prepared Heart

By: Gary Henry (Diligently Seeking God, March 8)

"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10)

OUR "NATURE" IS GIVEN TO US BY GOD, BUT OUR "CHARACTER" IS CREATED BY OUR CHOICES. What we do with the raw materials of our created nature brings into being a character that is either good or bad. Of course, the fact that character is a matter of choice does not mean the choices are always carefully made. Indeed, many people simply live by default, going with the flow and ending up with a character that has been chosen haphazardly. But haphazard choices are still choices. Whether we've been careful or careless, we'll still have to account to God for our decisions.

Ezra is said to have "prepared his heart." Apparently he had given some thought to the sort of man he wanted to be. Surely he was aware of what the major alternatives are that lie before a human being, and his choice to pursue godliness seems to have been a deliberate decision. It's not unlikely that Ezra had given some consideration to the matter of consequences. There is no more consequential choice than the choice of one's character, and Ezra had no doubt considered that some kinds of character would take him places he didn't want to go to.

It is worth noting the particular character Ezra prepared himself to have. This wise man determined that he would (1) seek God's will, (2) do whatever he learned, and (3) teach to others the things that he had both learned and lived. We could look a long time and not find a better three-point program for character development. Seeking, doing, and teaching . . . the will of God. These things are close to the heart of what human existence is all about.

If we've not already done so, it's urgent that we prepare our hearts. It's time to think seriously about what matters most to us. What kind of people do we intend to be? "When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind" (Seneca). But preparing our hearts requires more than charting our course. We must also count the cost and resolve that we'll pay the price to have a character that's worth having. The devil is eager to test how well prepared our hearts really are.

"You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one"
(James Anthony Froude)