

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bethany Moon** is in the hospital with several complications related to her pregnancy, including an allergic reaction and a blood clot. Lord willing, she will be released tomorrow. Also, remember **Lauren Underwood**, our other expectant mother.
- We have new members! **Jordan and Alison Mitchell** and their son **Clark** have moved here from Florida and want to associate with our family. Their address is *7300 Brompton St., Apt. 5337, Houston, 77025*. Let's welcome and encourage them!
- Don't forget those with storm/flood damage: **Banks, Benthall, Garrett, Guzman, Haley, Hurd, Knapp, Krueger, Stark, Stech, Walker, and Washington**. Pray, encourage, and help!
- **Daniel and Beth Broadwell** are in Port Arthur today, where he was invited to preach for the Memorial church of Christ.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Mickle, and Pat Butler**.
- **Sermon Title: A Perfect Hope**
- **Calendar Items:**
 - **The Youth Devotional** is today at the home of Barbara McDonald. All middle and high school students are welcome for lunch, a lesson, and some time to hang out together!
 - **Our monthly singing and prayer** is Sunday, October 1st.

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 - H. Banks
Song Leader - G. Williams
Opening Prayer - TBD
Lesson - S. Garrett
Communion Talk - A. Morolez
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - F. Sparks

BIBLE CLASSES

Luke (Auditorium)

- Steve Garrett
- Brian Haley

Ezra/Nehemiah

- John Moon
- David Haley

Classes for children

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Longing for Whatever God Says by: Gary Henry (www.wordpoints.com)

*How sweet are Your words to my taste,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
(Psalm 119:103)*

THERE IS A STRONG, VIBRANT LINK BETWEEN LOVING GOD AND LONGING FOR HIS WORD. If Scripture study is nothing to us but an obligation or chore, we ought not to be so bold as to say we love God or take Him seriously. It is no less true with God than with anyone else: we are delighted to receive communications from those whom we love. “This is the love of God,” John wrote, “that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

The problem that many religious people have, however, is that while God’s words are sweet to our taste in general, we shrink away from the parts of His word that we ourselves most need to hear. Thus our three goals should be: to long for God, to long for what He says, and to long for *whatever* He says!

There happens to be a quite practical reason why we should be open to whatever God says. As J. I. Packer has pointed out, “One of the many divine qualities of the Bible is this: that it does not yield its secrets to the irreverent or censorious.” If we find some of God’s words less than sweet because our hearts are not open and receptive to our responsibilities, then it’s not likely that we’ll even understand the meaning of the words we need to understand. Adopting a resistant attitude is a sure way to cut ourselves off from the comprehension of God’s words (John 8:43,44).

If we are eager to hear what God has to say, however, and if we are also eager to do as He instructs (James 1:21,22), then we will certainly be able to understand all we need to understand. And not only that, but we will become hard-working, thorough students of the Scriptures. We will be more than dabblers in God’s word. Perhaps we shall even be able to identify with the well-known words of Martin Luther: “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.”

“Make it the first morning business of your life to understand some part of the Bible clearly, and make it your daily business to obey it in all that you do understand” (John Ruskin)