

# The Reminder

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

## “The Second Time Around”

Ah, the joy of something new! There's nothing quite like it. Some new product that works better than the old one. Some new way to get there faster. Some new fidelity to make it sound better. Some new wrench that works smoother. Some new machine that's stronger. Some new story that tickles your fancy. Some new drug that makes your health problems easier to bear. There's just something special about new stuff.

One of the best of all new things is new beginnings, the sheer joy of just being able to start over. A clean sheet of paper is a beautiful thing. It's just great to be able to start over. You'll usually do it better the second time around.

Forgiveness makes possible the most beautiful of all new beginnings. Forgiveness means a new start, a new page, a new chapter to write. Forgiveness means that what was there before—sin with all its guilt—is no longer present, that sin—that which once blighted your character and distorted your view of things—is no longer present. It's gone. Never to return. It's like having a new sheet of paper.

When a person—one with faith and a penitent heart—is baptized into Christ (I Corinthians 12:13), he becomes a new creature, a new creation. His old person is taken away and he is made new (Romans 6:3-7). Paul talks about our becoming "new creatures in Christ." "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

In other words, when a man obeys the gospel of Christ, he becomes something entirely new, a new creation, one forgiven and clean,

one totally devoid of his old sins. They've all been washed away. It's as if they never existed. What a joy to know that when God forgives, He forgets. It's the best of all new things, the first and most important of all new beginnings, forgiveness.

But a new beginning is just that—a new beginning. Now you have to get on with this new life. There is learning to be done, corrections that need to be made in all your courses of life. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmove-able, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." We have to press on toward the mark, abound in the work of the lord, make our calling and election sure, work out our own salvation (Philippians 3:12-14; II Peter 1:10; Philippians 2:12).

Paul puts this new beginning into a proper focus when he says, "For our conversation ("citizenship," NKJV) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all thing unto himself. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved (Philippians 3:20-4:1). We're here in a probationary period, and we still have lots to think about, lots to do, before we get where we're going.

And so, it behooves each of us to make our new beginning all that it was intended to be. Let's be workers for the Lord. It's the only life that makes any sense. And it's the only way the new beginning can have any real worth in our lives.

Dee Bowman - edited

**SUNDAY**  
**JULY 12, 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



## “Count Your Many Blessings - See What God Hath Done”

### Morning Lesson

“Glorying in Glory”  
Jack Smith

### Evening Lesson

“The Soft Hands of God”  
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.

Please continue to pray for Kim's cousin, Eliza. She hasn't made a lot of progress in her recovery. Harold and Curby continue to regain their strength. Keep their families in mind also.

We also have several who are expecting babies. Some for the first time. Can be kind of uncomfortable and scary. Love them and pray for them.

Not sure when the Kruegers are due back. Soon I hope. Anita is scheduled to come back on Tuesday. Nathan Lovinggood is also gone this weekend. Safe travels for all these folks.

As US citizens we are blessed beyond measure. Basic needs and religious freedom are available for all. In addition our standard of living affords us many pleasures. We have plenty of food and rarely do we experience true hunger. Most of us live in homes newer and grander than needed to support our basic requirements. We enjoy easily accessible health care. Transportation is always available and most own a reliable vehicle (and some a recreational vehicle as well). Public services are provided guaranteeing safety and security. There is such surplus of time and money that most can afford entertainment, travel, and other trinkets. Compare this to our brethren in Africa and South America. We truly are blessed!

We cannot allow these material blessings to become a source of pride. It is enticing to think that we have earned all of this by our own efforts. Can we alter our country of birth? Our opportunities? Health status? Talents? [Romans 12:3](#) *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* We must maintain our humility in all walks of life whether rich or poor in material blessings as all good things come from God and not ourselves. I think of the hymn “Count your many blessings see what God hath done.”

- Mark Hammonds - edited

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Mann  
Hymn Director - R. McDonald  
Opening Prayer - J. Carithers  
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - W. Hodge  
Opening Prayer - B. Haley  
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

### 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

- I & II Corinthians
- Identifying, Tearing Down and Removing Idols from Our Hearts.