

SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2016

the

Reminder

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

“Ease vs. Effort”

“Do your utmost to come before winter” (2 Timothy 4:21).

REACHING FORWARD REQUIRES EFFORT. If it was important for Timothy to get to where Paul was before winter, it is all the more important for us to get to where God is before it is too late. On a higher level, God would surely say to us: “do your utmost.”

The modern assumption, of course, is that difficulty and pain are to be avoided whenever possible. Ease and pleasure have come to be thought of as almost unqualified goods. But the modern assumption is questionable. Historically, as well as biblically, wise people have always understood that there are some things worth enduring difficulty and suffering pain for. The easy chair may be enjoyable at day’s end, but the main part of life involves getting up and making a serious effort to accomplish worthy goals.

If the goal is heaven, we do need to be reminded that we can’t get there by our own effort. If we are saved, it will be by the grace of a Father who was not willing to leave us in our lost condition. But neither will God’s grace leave us sitting in our easy chair. He will help us do whatever needs to be done (Philippians 4:13), but He won’t force salvation upon any person who doesn’t care enough about Him to seek Him diligently (Hebrews 11:6).

When Paul wrote about “reaching forward to those things which are ahead” (Philippians 3:13), he used some vivid language in Greek. The Twentieth Century New Testament brings out the strength of Paul’s metaphor with this translation: “straining every nerve for that which lies in front.” Going to heaven is not for the runner who casually strolls toward the finish line; it’s for the one who strives forward — exerting significant, sober-minded effort.

The course of least resistance is the road to ruin, almost without exception. Mark it down: if we don’t accept the pain of discipline, we will suffer the pain of regret. So let’s not avoid the hard work that God gives us the privilege of doing. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,” Paul said to Timothy, “a worker who does not need to be ashamed” (2 Timothy 2:15). If we go forward with anything less than diligence, we will not be pleased with the results. We will, to use Paul’s word, be “ashamed.”

“Everything requires effort: the only thing you can achieve without it is failure” (Anonymous).

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

About Us

Bellaire

church of Christ
8001 South Rice Ave
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bellairechurchofchrist.org

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

MORNING LESSON

Michael Krueger

SERVICE

Welcome – H Banks
Hymn Director – L. Williams
Opening Prayer– J. Moon
Morning Lesson – S. Garrett
Announcements – M. Pharris
Closing Prayer – B. Haley

EVANGELIST

Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

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

BIBLE CLASSES

Bible Questions and Answers
Alex Morolez and Mark Mann
Colossians 2:15-29
Steve Garrett
Graded classes for children

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email: clanton4@gmail.com

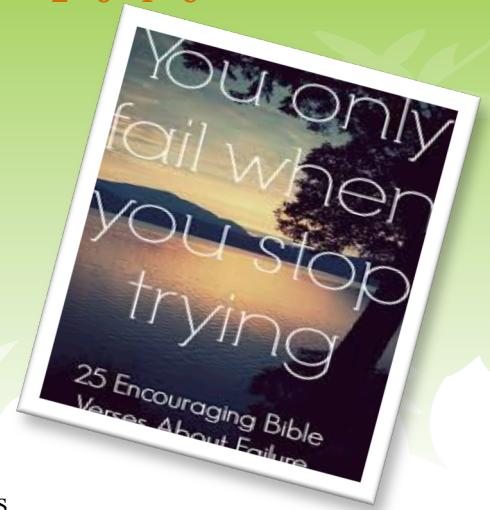
“I Sleep Nights...”

Christians have the “peace that passeth understanding” to keep their minds and hearts in the Lord (Philippians 4:7). When we’ve written all, and said all, on the subject, the fact remains that we are privileged to have that which the world does not have, and cannot have, while remaining “the world.” A good point was in a story meaningful to the writer: Two boys, best of friends, grew up together in one of the poorer sections of New York City. One boy grew up respectful of authority; the other, rebelling constantly. One boy finished school, obtained some college, entered law enforcement; the other quit school, early went into crime, and became a ranking leader in drugs, gambling, prostitution and liquor. In time, the one, now highly respected as a police detective, was sent in pursuit of his former friend.

In the course of things, the criminal was caught, and while awaiting sentencing, the detective went to visit his boyhood chum, who was arrogant and mocking. He said to the detective, “You’re a fool. Do you have a second home in Florida? Do you own a yacht? Have you vacationed in Europe? I’ll have you know that I will pull in four grand this week. How much do you make in a week?” The detective then speaks: “I make \$90.23 per week – but I sleep nights!”

The Christian has the peace that passeth understanding. He can sleep nights. One man put it: “I can sleep when the wind blows.”

Bill Jackson



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.

With the recent rains, many have been impacted with floods. Specifically, Bob and Erma Stark are dealing not only with his health issues but flood issues as well. Bob is managing his pain and trying to get into the doctor sooner than the current appointment. Their home is flooded and their subdivision has been closed. I am not aware of anything they need right now other than prayers and support.

Dry Creek Camp starts today. Several of our families, including Steve and Muffy are out taking kids to camp. Please pray for their safe travels.