

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2 APRIL 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Join us today for our monthly singing and prayer service this afternoon at 1:30! **Weston Hodge** has put together the songs!
- **Pat Butler** met with her doctor and had a good report. Her blood count was still low, but is expected She will follow up in 3 months. Praise God!
- **Fran Spencer's** lymphoma has spread. Please pray for our dear sister and let's see what we can do to encourage her.
- Continue to pray for **Willie Hurd** as she recovers from her fall.
- **Anna Miekle** is in a lot of pain and isn't doing well. Pray for her healing.
- **Terry Kornfeld's dad** continues to make small progress. Pray for Hoover and his family as they care for him.
- Next Sunday, April 9, we will be resuming our **monthly group meetings**. Your group leader will be contacting you, please make plans to attend!
- 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:** Paul's Powerful Prayer

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 - L. Williams
Opening Prayer- S. Clanton
Lesson - S. Garrett
Announcements - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - D. Kimbrough

BIBLE CLASSES

Old Testament Survey

- Brian Haley
- Auditorium

Gospel of Mark

- Daniel Broadwell
- Back Classroom

Classes for children

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Ready to Listen

By: Gary Henry (Diligently Seeking God, April 1)

"Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel answered, 'Speak, for Your servant hears'" (1 Samuel 3:9,10)

AS WE SEEK GOD, WE MUST KEEP OURSELVES OPEN TO HIS WORD. Like rich, fertile soil ready to receive the sower's seed, our hearts must be receptive to the word which God intends to plant there. Although marvelous good things can come from God's word in our hearts, this word can't even take root in our hearts if they are hardened or unhearing. We must be ready to listen.

To be ready to listen means that we're ready to receive whatever God wishes to say. Yet our hearing is often hindered by presupposition and prejudice. We already have fixed ideas about what God "must" say, and there are limits to what we'll listen to, even from God. But if we limit ourselves to what we want to hear, not many of us will hear what we need to hear. It is critically important that we move past our personal preferences and allow God to say to us whatever He wills. After all, a servant is in no position to dictate to his master what instructions the master is allowed to give. As those who would serve God, we have not been asked to serve in an "advisory capacity." It is our role (and our high privilege) to wait upon His word and do His bidding, whatever that might be. "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears."

The gift of language has been vouchsafed to us by God. But the gift was not given just so that we might speak; it was given that we might hear when our God speaks to us. Great issues hinge upon our choice in this matter. Readiness to listen is no accident of personality, randomly possessed by some people and not by others. It is a deliberate decision we make to open ourselves to God's word. James encouraged us to do this: "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:21,22). If we can honestly say what Samuel said, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears," then we have a maturity that can take us toward an even greater maturity in the things of God.

"One of the highest and noblest functions of man's mind is to listen to God's Word, and so to read his mind and think his thoughts after him" (John R. W. Stott)