

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 4 JUNE 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We sorrowfully announce that our brother **Don Hurd** passed away early Wednesday morning after several years of serious health issues that prevented him from joining us regularly. The funeral will be tomorrow, Monday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Richardson Mortuary, with a viewing preceding the service at 9:00 a.m.
- **Pat Butler** is getting stronger and she will meet with her doctors at the end of June. Pray for complete healing!
- **Anna Mickle's** health is really struggling and she is very weak. Pray for her strength and comfort.
- **Holly Ann Villanueva, Sharon Alexander's daughter,** will have surgery on June 7th. Continue to pray for her.
- Continue praying for those with on-going health issues. **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, and Johnny Martinez.**
- **Sermon Title: Enlarge My Heart (Psalm 119)**

Calendar Items:

- **Today begins a new quarter of Bible classes!** We will have only one adult class, which will be in the auditorium!
- **This afternoon** is our singing and prayer service at **1:30 pm.**
- **Next Sunday, June 11th,** we will have our quarterly whole congregation group meeting. Join us for a **potluck at the Bellaire Community center!**

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - TBD
Song Leader - L. Williams
Opening Prayer - J. Carithers
Lesson - D. Broadwell
Communion Talk - A. Morolez
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - C. Underwood

BIBLE CLASSES

Psalms (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell
- Michael Krueger

Classes for children

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

8001 S. Rice Ave
P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, TX 77402
bellairechurchofchrist.org

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 4 JUNE 2017

Overview of Psalms (part 2)

Editor's note: This week we will be start our study on the Psalms, in the auditorium class. The quarter will be focused on how we use the Psalms in singing and prayer, but I want us also to become more familiar with the book itself. To that end, here is at the second half the introduction that began in last week's bulletin!

Style and Genre of the Psalms

Within the psalms, there is a wide range of style. This would be expected from a collection of poems from who-knows-how-many authors that wrote over hundreds of years. But it is important to appreciate the variety within the book. Consider the following main categories:

- **Psalms of praise:** These psalms focus on giving praise to God because of *who He is*. These psalms will list attributes of God and pile up words of honor and adoration for Him. If these psalms talk about what God has done, it is very large scale works, like creation or delivering the people from Egypt. The focus is praising God for *who He is*. (see Psalm 8, 145-150)
- **Psalms of thanksgiving:** These psalms focus on praising and thanking God for *what He has done*. Specifically, these psalms recount what God has done for me personally, or for us His people. They will report a crisis that befell them, report the deliverance God accomplished, and call the assembly to praise God for *His work*. (see Psalm 18, 30-32, 107)
- **Psalms of lament:** These psalms mourn the difficult situation of the psalmist. Whether enemies or personal iniquity, the author is declaring how miserable he is and crying out to the Lord for help. In these psalms, there is no report or deliverance, but there may be a declaration of praise and confidence in God —although not always. (see Psalm 6, 7, 13, 88)

There are other categories that can be used helpfully, such as **royal psalms** (about the king, i.e. 2, 45, 110), **imprecatory psalms** (about praying for ill on God's enemies, i.e. 69, 109, 137), and **torah psalms** (about God's word, i.e. 1, 19, 119), but praise, thanks, and lament are the most common.

How to Read the Psalms

Psalms are written in Hebrew poetry. Like modern poetry, there are certain features of Hebrew poetry that set it apart from other forms of writing. Some of the characteristics are similar to how we write poetry. For instance, the poetry of the psalms uses a lot of figurative language. This is language that is not meant to be taken literally, rather illustrate a thought using imagery. When the author of Psalm 22 says, "Many bulls surrounded me," he was likely not in danger of fierce cattle; rather the "bulls" symbolize his enemies that are strong and threatening. There are some fancy words (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, anthropomorphism) that we could use to describe specific types of figurative language, but suffice it to say that when we read the psalms we need to be aware of the prevailing use of imagery.

Perhaps the most important feature of Hebrew poetry to be aware of when reading psalms is parallelism. Parallelism is (in simple terms) the repeating of a line or idea in order to add to its meaning. Consider, for example, the first verse of Psalm 93:

The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty;

The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength.

The first line is parallel to the second because it restates the thought. However, the author is not simply repeating the line for the sake of repeating—the second line adds to the power and meaning of the first. Not only is Jehovah clothed with majesty (He is regal, beautiful, etc) but He has girded himself with strength (He is a King preparing for battle). This is one example, but almost every line of the psalms will have a parallel line to enhance it's meaning. Parallelism was the main tool in the hand of those writing psalms, so it is thus the main tool for those reading them.