

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 10 DECEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bob Stark** had heart transplant surgery last Tuesday night and is in ICU recovering. He continues to have a lot of pain and the doctors are working to get that under control. Continue to pray for Bob and Erma.
- **Nathan Lovinggood** leaves today to go to Germany for work. Pray for his safety and safe return.
- **Sharon Alexander** has had some relief but is still suffering with back pain. Also pray for **Holly Ann** who will be having reconstructive surgery this month.
- **Johnny Martinez** is still struggling with his health, and is receiving several weekly dialysis treatments.
- **Deb Haley** is having a trial pain pump implant on Monday, December 11. Pray that it helps bring relief for her!
- We have new members of the Bellaire family, please meet, welcome, and encourage **Ian and Melanie Davies**, as well as **Kerry and Julia Kendrick**, and their daughter, **Katherine**.
- Remember those rebuilding from Harvey: **Banks, Benthalls, Guzmans, Haleys, Hurds, Starks, Stechs, and Washington**.
- Please continue to pray for **Bethany Moon and Lauren Underwood**, who are both expecting.
- ****MORE UPDATES ON BACK****

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 Haley
Mitchell Howell
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
John Moon
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - S. Garrett
Song Leader - M. Krueger
Opening Prayer - L. Williams
Lesson - D. Broadwell
Communion Talk - J. Carithers
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - T. Walker

BIBLE CLASSES

Isaiah (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell

Parables (Back Room)

- Alex Morolez
- Justin Seale

Classes for children

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- **Clark and Lauren Underwood (and Virgil)** have officially moved to Corpus Christi. Pray for them in this transition. Their new address is 13842 Exchequer, Corpus Christi, 78410.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Mike Flinn, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Miekle, and Pat Butler.**
- **Sermon Title: Sharing in God's Family**

Discipleship and Self-Denial

Gary Henry, Diligently Seeking God (wordpoints.com)

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me'" (Matthew 16:24).

SELF-DENIAL IS A DIFFICULT DISCIPLINE, TO BE SURE, BUT IT IS ONE OF LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT VIRTUES. If we wish to become disciples in any serious sense, we must learn to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Christ.

One reason we find self-denial so difficult is that it goes against the grain of our culture. The social environment in which we live is increasingly dominated by self-affirmation rather than self-denial. This ethic comes through loud and clear in the lyrics of our popular music. For example, a hit by one of the most powerful pop stars of the past decade tells us, "You've got to do what you've got to do." Another song, this one even by an artist known for his spirituality, says, "You've got to do it in your own way."

What is wrong with this philosophy? It is certainly true that when tough personal decisions have to be made, we must summon the courage to act on our own convictions. When we've analyzed a decision from every angle and considered the advice of others, the time comes when we have to make up our own minds. Integrity requires that we do what we believe is right, even if this conflicts with the collective judgment of everybody we know.

But the philosophy of self-affirmation advocates far more than the simple following of conscience. Instead, when we're told that "you've got to do what you've got to do," it's understood that what we've "got to do" is whatever we want to do. One of the scariest statements I have ever heard illustrates this ethic. The remark came from a very up-to-date friend who said with evident satisfaction, "It feels so good at this point in my life finally to have the courage to do what I want to do and not what anybody else says I ought to do." In our culture, "want" defeats "ought" every time.

As "self-actualized" people, then, it is hard for us to learn self-denial. We do not find it easy to yield to God when what we want is on a collision course with His standards of what is right. Yet self-denial is what we must learn. Somehow we must recover the old-fashioned virtue of sacrifice — the willingness to let go of everything except that which most greatly glorifies God.

"We tend to be devoted, not to Jesus Christ, but to the things which allow us more spiritual freedom than total surrender to Him would allow" (Oswald Chambers).