VOLUME XXXVIII

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 18 NOVEMBER 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mark Mann was moved earlier in the week to Encompass Health Rehabilitation in Sugar Land. However, he had to go back into the hospital Saturday to get his blood pressure under control. Please continue to pray for Mark's recovery, as well as for **Kim** and the family.
- **Mike Pharris** had knee replacement surgery last week and is slowly recuperating. Please pray that his pain will be eased and that he can return to normal life as soon as possible.
- Janice Kimbrough has started chemotherapy, and will also have a procedure this Wednesday to address problems in her throat. Pray for her strength, for healing, and for **Dan**, whose sister **Glenda Toll** is currently on hospice care.
- **Mike Flinn** was released from the hospital after his incident last weekend and is feeling better. Thanks to all for prayers!
- Pray for **Pat Butler**, who continues to recuperate from her fall and receive therapy at home, that she could be with us soon!
- We have several traveling, including **the Moons**, **the Martins**, and no doubt others with the Thanksgiving holiday this week!
- Pray for **Beverley Berthold**, **Muffy Garrett**'s mom, who continues to receive treatment for her cancer. Pray for strength and total healing!

****Announcements continue on back****

SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday: 7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - L. Williams Song Leader - N. Lovinggood Opening Prayer - J. Knapp Communion Talk - H. Banks Lesson - D. Broadwell Announcements - B. Haley Closing Prayer - H.E. Jenkins Wed. Songs - A. Morolez Wed. Invitation - S. Garrett Wed. Prayer - D. Broadwell

BIBLE CLASSES

New Songs/Thessalonians

- Steve Garrett
- Auditorium

Middle - High School

- Daniel Broadwell
- Upstairs

Classes for All Ages

- God's Mighty Hand
- Back Classrooms

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

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- Pray for others with chronic health concerns: Laura Claburn, Jan & Richard Cooper, Deb Haley, Johnny Martinez, Anna Miekle, Bob Stark.
- Sermon Title: Let No One Take You Captive

When You've Gotten It, Can You Enjoy It? by: Gary Henry (<u>wordpoints.com</u>)

"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it." (Ecclesiastes 6:1,2)

IN SETTING OUR GOALS AND MAKING OUR PLANS, WE OFTEN ATTRIBUTE TO OURSELVES MORE POWER THAN WE ACTUALLY HAVE. When we aspire to material wealth, for example, we've been taught by the motivational speakers to believe that we can have anything we want: it is only a matter of having enough drive and ingenuity. But there are two faulty assumptions hidden in this thinking. One is that we can acquire however much wealth we want to acquire, and the other is that we will be able to enjoy it once we get it.

But it is God who determines, first, whether we'll be allowed to accumulate wealth and, second, whether we'll be able to enjoy it. Any of us might be the "man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor" and yet "God does not give him power to eat of it." The truth is, God can keep us from accumulating wealth if He wants to (despite our drive and ingenuity), and He can just as easily keep us from getting any lasting joy out of it. So write this down and never forget it: if we wrongfully aspire to wealth, one of God's worst punishments is to let us have the thing we thought we wanted and then make us more miserable than we were before we got it.

So when our "dream comes true," will it make us happy? Maybe it will, but then again, maybe it won't. Foolishly, we assume that getting the wealth we desire will provide the freedom to enjoy life and open the door to happiness. But that won't be the result if God doesn't grant the enjoyment of the things He permits us to acquire. God may see to it that our wealth gives us not freedom but slavery, and there is no worse bondage than bondage to wealth. As the saying goes, "Chains of gold are stronger than chains of iron."

At the end of the day, freedom has little to do with what we have or don't have. In fact, it doesn't have much to do with our external circumstances at all. Even in prison, Paul had more freedom than most of those walking the streets outside his prison. Freedom is freedom from the sinful desires that have bound us to the devil.

"Freedom does not mean I am able to do whatever I want to do. That's the worst kind of bondage. Freedom means I have been set free to become all that God wants me to be, to achieve all that God wants me to achieve, to enjoy all that God wants me to enjoy." (Warren W. Wiersbe)