

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 12 AUGUST 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We have a **congregational potluck** today at the Bellaire Community Center. Everyone is welcome, join us!
- The **Men's Breakfast** is this coming **Saturday, August 18**, at the Dandelion Cafe (5405 Bellaire Blvd) at 8:30.
- Save the date for our **Fall Gospel meeting**, October 12-14th with **Russ Bowman** from Beaumont.
- Keep **Drew Bean** and his family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of his mother, **Deb Bean**.
- Remember and pray also for **Jeremy Tom**, who lost his father, **Darren Tom**, a few weeks ago.
- **Dan Kimbrough's** sister, **Glenda Toll**, has stage four cancer. Please pray for **Glenda**, and the family.
- Remember **Jan and Richard Cooper**, who are still in Illinois until later this month.
- **Beverley Berthold**, **Muffy's** mother, will go to the doctor Monday to see if her white blood cell count is high enough to receive chemo treatment. And her nephew, **Truman Berthold**, is undergoing radiation at St. Jude's (in Memphis). Let's pray!
- Keep praying for those with on-going health concerns: **Pat Butler**, **Laura Claburn**, **Jan and Richard Cooper**, **Mike Flinn**, **Deb Haley**, **Janice Kimbrough**, **Johnny Martinez**, **Anna Mickle**, **Bob Stark**.
- **Sermon Title: Snapshots of a King**

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

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

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 - D. Broadwell
Song Leader - M. Krueger
Opening Prayer - M. Gomez
Communion Talk - I. Davies
Lesson - S. Garrett
Announcements - B. Haley
Closing Prayer - J. Martin
Wed. Songs - M. Mann
Wed. Invitation - J. Seale
Wed. Prayer - B. Haley

BIBLE CLASSES

Evangelism

- Daniel Broadwell
- Auditorium

Middle - High School

- Mark Mann
- Harrison Banks

Classes for All Ages

- Back Classrooms

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 12 AUGUST 2018

Two Hands Full of Toil by: Travis Starling

In the beginning of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge proved to be in a very sad state, though unbeknownst to him. Scrooge, who was a money lender, was a hard worker evidenced by the amount of hours at the office and a shrewd businessman who often times lacked compassion in his dealings with his customers. Because of his hard work and shrewd ways, he was very successful and wealthy. One might ask "why would anyone describe a successful and wealthy businessman as being in a sad state?" Scrooge would arrive home late most nights to a dark, cold, and empty house, have dinner alone, and go to sleep alone.

Ecclesiastes 4:5-8 "The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind. Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

The Ecclesiastes writer in this passage first provides a spectrum that all workers fall on. On one end of the range is the sluggard who starves because he chooses to not work at all, and at the other end is the man who has too much on his plate, which leads to constant stress, late nights, and interrupted weekends. The wise writer lets the readers know where is best. "Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil." The man with one handful of toil might not be as "successful" or financially wealthy as the one with two hands full, but that is the point. One can choose to strive after more success and riches, but at the expense of the better things in life.

The writer then provides wisdom that gets right to the heart of the Scrooge story. "One person who has no one... yet there is no end to all his toil". Throughout Scrooge's life he chose academia and business over meaningful relationships. In school growing up he would always stick to himself and study while his peers were getting together. He neglected his familial relationships because he had no time outside of work. It was never the right time to marry because his business "required" his attention and funds, so the one woman who saw the good in Scrooge left him. At none of these junctures in his life did he stop and ask "for whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" Instead he remained laser focused on striving after the wind.

Luckily for Scrooge he had help in seeing the error of his ways, which led to better choices that would allow joy into his life. What about us? Where are we on the spectrum? For who and why do we toil? Is the amount of work we subject ourselves to getting in the way of more important aspects of life like spending time with God, family, and friends? If yes, then we too are in a sad state and need to take charge of our lives. This might mean smaller houses, fewer cars, and older clothes, but it will be more than worth it because better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil.