

Family & Friends..... April 7th 2021

We have had some beautiful weather with cooler temperatures, Spring still trying to move forward. I thought about the horse, Seabiscuit, who made his fame back in the Great Depression. He was considered the underdog or loser. Seabiscuit was a small horse but became an unlikely champion and a symbol of hope to many Americans during the depression. He was the perfect horse for his time. The horse that came up from nothing on his own courage and will to win. It enhanced his appeal at a time when suffering men, women, and children looked for something, anything, to cling to. He was named Horse of the Year in 1938 and beat "War Admiral" in a race that was thought of as The Match of the Century, also in 1938. He did his part of raising the spirits of the Nation during hard times. What can we learn from this story? I feel we can learn persistence from this little horse. We Christians can learn to fight the good fight, to finish the course, and keep the faith. Fixing our eyes on Jesus who endured the cross for us and saved us from sin. The Lord is our symbol of hope and the course we must take to win the race to be with Him. To God Be the Glory!

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2*

Those on our prayer list: Continue to keep Susan Duffy and family in your prayers in the passing of her Aunt Bonnie. Ron Beaty is home with Hospice. Keep Ron, Margaret, and James in your prayers. Robert Horton has a bone infection in his foot and will be getting Hyperbaric treatments for the next 30 days. Phyllis Spaw's sister, Hilda Jones, has been diagnosed with cancer. Hattie Louise Perry would like to have visitors at Highland's Health. Joe Hott's brother, Frank, has been declared cancer free following his biopsies. Remember Joe & Kay's daughter, Heidi. Continue prayers for Doug & Monica Klingman's fathers, Lou Hollo, Chuck & Joyce Pippin, (Chuck is now at Innis Free) Margaret Wicker, Steven Ashcraft, Mark Bagwell's mother, Dorothy, Loisell Tyler, Bob & Pat Musson, Amy Bowman's niece, Krista, the Alber's family, David Baker a friend of the Dobbs, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the COVID virus.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Spaghetti sauce, taco sauce, salad dressings, Hamburger Helper, toilet bowl cleaner. Our Food Pantry list for April: tuna, chicken, honey, pasta sauce, Mayo/Miracle Whip, and salad dressings.

A Christlike life is a message of hope to a searching world.

Love you, stay safe. *Karen*

**Bella Vista
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

LORD'S DAY	8:15
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Second Worship	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM
Bible Class	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-640-4943

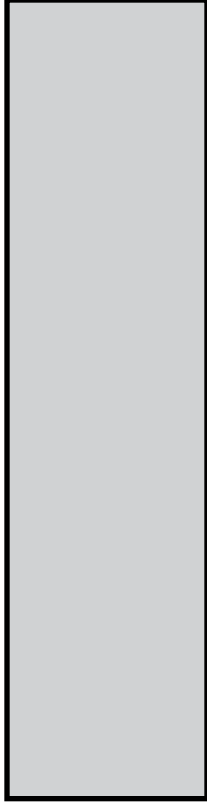
DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Selwyn Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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Bella Vista

God-Centric Living

"Mirror, mirror on the wall" What do I see when I see me? Self-concept, self-image is important. We must be comfortable with who we are spiritually. And if we are not, we need to change. Today is the time to ask some questions about life and how it's to be lived. For instance, our culture is into me-centric thinking. We cultivate our own agendas instead of God's will in our life. We've gotta ask: "Who am I? Am I me-centric or God-Centric?"

Living God-Centric lives demands we ask some serious questions about what is right and wrong for me?...

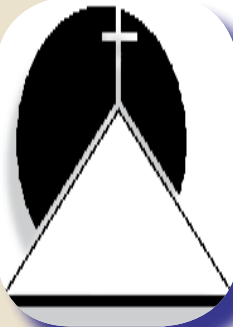
Does the Bible say it's wrong? If the Bible says something is wrong, there is no way to make it right. Rationalization is "in" today. But no amount of human thinking can change truth. King Saul rationalized that it was okay to disobey God if it was to glorify Him. Samuel responded: "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." He is saying, the end doesn't justify the means. If the Bible condemns a practice, it can't be justified by human reasoning. Existentialism, situation ethics are of Satan.

Will it harm my body? God lives in us: "We know this by the Spirit He gave us. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God with your body."

Will it impair my mind? The Bible not only tells us how to live, it tells us what to think. Solomon wrote, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Jesus said, "out of the heart come the issues of life." Paul admonishes: "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Will this enslave me? Paul writes: "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but we must not be mastered, brought under the power of any." God doesn't want us enslaved to anyone or anything but Him. God must rule as Lord and King over every arena of life!

WHEELINERS



Is this proper stewardship? By participating in this thought or practice, am I being a good steward of my time, talent, treasure, energy and truth, His truth? Scripture tells us that *"As stewards of God's blessings, that we be found faithful."*

Does this practice glorify God? *"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord."* Christ should always be exalted whether in life or death. We must ask the mirror: "Does my latest agenda glorify me or God?" If an attitude or behavior can't help us in some way to glorify Him, perhaps we ought to rethink it.

Will it profit and edify others? The Hebrews' writer admonishes, *"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good works."* Paul is found saying: *"Even as I try to please everybody in every way,*

I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, so that they may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10.33). Not one of us is an island, we influence oth-

ers by the way we think and behave. Paul contends that *"no man lives and dies to himself."*

Is it worth imitating? "Mirror, mirror, does my thinking and behavior cause others to live God pleasing lives?" "Do I want my weaker brother or my children doing what I am about to do?" "Will it enhance their lives and bring them closer to God?" Paul says, *"That which is not done in faith is sin"* *"Follow me as I follow Christ."*

Is it best? For too long we've asked the question: What's wrong with this? Wrong question! It should be: Is this the best thing? Is this the excellent thing to do? God is not asking us to do the mediocre or the mundane, but the excellent. Lukewarmness, status-quo, mediocre is never pleasing to our God. Instead, we are to *"love Him with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and strength."* All our being!

Well, how do we apply these suggestions?

- Go ahead, look in the mirror. Do it often. Self examination is a biblical concept. Lamentation 3.40 reads, *"Let us test and examine our ways..."* Paul says, *"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith."*
- Make a decision to do better. Nothing happens until we decide to make it happen.
- Ask ourselves honestly, can we improve our lives by adopting these concepts?



- Obtain good counsel. Seek out godly men and women who can help us decide what's best. Don't ask just anybody! Find the most God-like individual you know and ask for help.
- Ask for God's help. *"God is patient, not willing that any should perish."* He is always ready to help us do what is right.
- Evaluate the results. Are we closer to God because we've adopted these beliefs and behaviors? Are we having a more positive influence on others?

Remember: thoughts determine actions, actions determine habits, habits determine lifestyle, lifestyle determines destiny.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful as we strive to become the people and person that God has called us to be.

—RANDALL CASELMAN

A Worthwhile Read

The Bible is an indispensable companion for a will lived life. It is an entire library in only one volume. It contains sixty-six books, 1,189 chapters, 31,102 verses, 773,746 words and 3,566,480 letters, depending on the translation used.

The motivated reader can read the Old Testament in only a couple of weeks, about 74 hours. Sixty-four verses a day will take an average reader through it in one year.

The New Testament will take the same reader less than a week, 18.5 hours, only 28 minutes a day will complete it in forty days, 36 minutes a day will finish in 31 days.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3.15-17)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
(2 Timothy 2.15)

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/18/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader..... Alex Thompson Prayer & Scripture Harold Phillips
Communion Scripture & Prayer Randall Hunt Greeters/Handouts..... Gary McCool & Ken Rosenbaum

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader..... Sammy McCain Prayer & Scripture Woody Barker
Communion Scripture & Prayer Bryan Busbee Greeters/Handouts..... Bob Spaw & Chris Johnson

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator..... Mike Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator..... Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott

Wisdom From The Word

"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver"
(Proverbs 25.11, NIV)

Good advice is priceless. "Be careful, son. Even the big rocks move." My dad gave me this advice while I was leaping from boulder to boulder and he was making his way carefully around the longer way to the river we would be fishing.

I should have listened. I learned the lesson the hard way when I leaped to a rock that tipped and dumped me in the river.

"Think before you speak."

"Don't spend what you don't have."

"Where there's a will there's a way."

Indeed, the world is full of good advice based on common sense that can change our lives for the better if we will just listen. Even better than common sense is the foundation of all wisdom — THE BIBLE!

God's word holds the universe's great truths and answers. But it also holds the answers to little things that can plague the lives of ordinary people. It is absolutely packed with good advice.

Clever individuals may find catchy ways to express these truths, but good advice finds its roots in the WORD.

For instance...

Are you grieving from a loss, suffering depression, fighting temptation, angry with a brother? The Bible has an answer.

Perhaps we need something more basic. We have Biblical advice on what God expects of us and how to be a good steward of His blessings.

Maybe we need tips on how to take care of our body and how to engage in spiritual warfare.

We could be dealing with issues of self-image, self-evaluation, maybe we are facing a tragedy.

Know this, the Bible is the best self-help, how-to-book ever published. Its advice is clear, precise, usable. May God help us to become hearers and doers of His Word. Amen?

—ADAPTED FROM KEN HORN
Springfield MO

