

Family & Friends..... March 10th, 2021

Spring is just around the corner with more daylight to come and enjoy. Are you ready to go fishing? The Mullet fish was one I was not familiar with until my friend Mary mentioned it to me. There are around seventy-eight species worldwide. Mostly found in coastal tropical waters and some fresh waters. They have served as an important food source in Mediterranean Europe since Roman times. Mullet fish are supposed to be the only fish with a gizzard, which some call fowl. They can grind their food before it goes through the digestive tract. They love fresh shrimp! The black mullet is caught in the Gulf of Mexico and has been a longtime staple of the North Florida diet. The striped mullet is an excellent food source also in Florida and also known worldwide in coastal waters. They are on the menu in a lot of restaurants, but maybe not in the western part of the Gulf of Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana, because of their oily taste in those regions. They are mostly used as bait in these areas. The Hawaiian Islands liked the Mullet fish so much they built ponds in which to raise them. The Mullet jump out of the water. They have an organ at the back of their throat that allows them to take in oxygen directly from the air. It gives them a boost. I think that's pretty cool. I will check this fish out if I ever get the chance. Not likely to be caught here. I am fascinated with God's creations, our Master Creator. To God Be the Glory!

*"Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
Mark 1:17,18*

Those on our prayer list: Andrew and Heather Albers had an extensive electrical fire to their home. Keep them in your prayers as the damage is being repaired and they are able to be back in their home soon. Lou Hollo has asked for prayers as he found out he has thyroid and lung cancer. Wanda Coffee's son, Aron, had a serious auto accident and we pray the therapy and recovery will have him back on his feet soon. Conner Evans also asked for prayers for his health issues. Prayers are needed for Roy and Dianna Fanning's daughter, Kimberly. Continue to remember and pray for the families that have recently lost loved ones: Mary Bell Banks, Doug Klingman, Dolores Jobe, and the Douglas family. Continue to remember and pray for Tim & Susan Duffy and Susan's dad, Ray Reiss, Louise Perry, Darryl Reynolds, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for Covid-19.

We like to share good news. Mary E. Harris has a new great grandson and his name is Parker William Graham. Congratulations, family!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: spaghetti sauce, tuna, chili beans, tomato sauce, BBQ sauce, jellies, and toothbrushes. For our Food Pantry: honey, jelly, peanut butter, flour, sugar, rice, spaghetti sauce, baking mixes-pancake, biscuit, and muffin, and fruit cups.

*God's Word is a life preserver,
keeping the soul from sinking in a sea of trouble.*

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	Bible Class	9:30 AM
Second Worship		10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

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

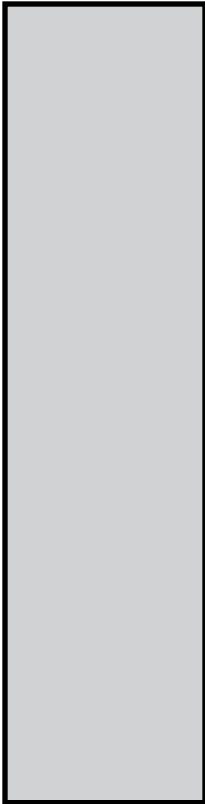
DEACONS

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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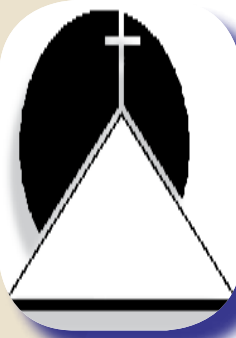
Christian Encouragement

Christians need frequent encouragement from fellow believers. In a pagan world and culture, the challenges to live victorious lives are formidable. Our beliefs are odious to unbelievers; Our behaviors by their very nature judge others as condemned; our integrity and morality are the exception and not the norm. Our rejection and even persecution are to be expected: *"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4.12).*

A passage of great encouragement is found in Romans 5.1-11. In this section of his letter, as a result of our being *"Justified through Faith"* verse one, and *"Justified by His blood"* verse nine, Paul enumerates various blessing of being "In Christ." Talk to us Paul. What do those blessings look like?

We Have Peace With God. *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5.1).* This phrase could be translated *"peace we are having,"* since it is present tense. Our peace with God began when we were baptized into Christ, and it will not be taken away! Unlike the young-and-in-love teen, we do not have to pick a daisy from the field and with one-by-one removal of its petals, test our standing with God, "He loves me; He loves me not; He loves..." D. Martyn Loyd-Jones says, "Peace with God indicates a belief that God still loves me in spite of the fact that I still sin. Peace with God indicates a state of mind that is at rest about my relationship with Him. Peace with God indicates an ability to confidently answer the accusation of the Devil. Peace with God indicates a lack of fear of judgment. The peace of which I have spoken is related to what Christ created at Calvary." *"For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to*

CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT



Himself... By making peace through His blood, shed on the cross" (Colossians 1.19-20). "And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4.7 & 9). No matter what the world is saying to us, nothing and no one can taken away our Peace with God!

There's Access To God. "Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." (Romans 5.2a). The word "access" connotes "facing God," "coming close to Him." It was used in some settings in the First Century to refer to ushering one into the presence of another, especially to royalty. The proper translation is "have had" (perfect tense), indicating we got it when we were baptized and still have it, access to God anytime, anywhere. It was not a temporary, start-up Christian blessing, but rather ongoing till we come face-to-face with the Father in Heaven. "For through Him we have access to the Father by one Spirit" (Ephesians 2.18).



We rejoice in the Hope of Glory. "... And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5.2b). "Rejoice" can be translated "boast." Paul tells us that our boast is only in Christ (1 Corinthians 1.31: "Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'" No we do not deserve it, but we can be confident in the promises of God, one of which is the glory of God.

When we consider the phrase, "the hope of the glory of God," two thoughts emerge. Paul has already stated that... "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3.23). In a sense, when we sin, we fall short of the desired intention or dream that God has always had for His children. No, as cleansed, redeemed people we are boasting in the fact that we have already received His hope for us, that is, freedom from sin's guilt and penalty. Indeed, we appear sinless in His sight. "There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ," Those who "walk in the light" (Romans 8.1 & 1 John 1.7. We have already received that glory, because we're sinless in God's view, in His sight of Calvary.

We Rejoice in Suffering. "...We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5.3-

4). Who among us would list this as a blessing!?! But maybe it is time we did "Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though something strange were happening to you... Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various trials, know that the proving of our faith works patients..." 1 Peter 4.12 & James 1.2-3). These verses tell us that suffering is a tool in God's hands to transform us into the likeness of Christ. "If we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (Romans 8.17).

We Are Loved By God. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us... God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died FOR us" (Romans 5.5 & 8). Amazing isn't it that: while we were at our worst; while we were walking away from Him, He came looking for us. While we were thumbing our nose in His face, as it were, "Christ died for us." The word "FOR" here is HUPER, meaning substitutionary, vicarious, in the place of us. We deserved to die or be condemned, but it was just at the right time Christ died for us. Indeed, "How deep the Father's love for us. How vast beyond all measure."

There's More & More Glory. "Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life" (Romans 5.9-10). Paul is saying, there is more! It is not over on this earth. He forgives and saves us here, forgives and saves us in judgment, saves us in Heaven. Jesus has "gone to prepare for us a place in the Father's house" (John 14.1-3). The greatest blessing is yet to be seen: "And so shall we be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4.18).

Paul is saying "it is all about rejoicing in God through our Lord Jesus Christ." All of these blessings come from the Lord and represent His character, love, and intentions toward us. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1.3). Yes, much needed encouragement in an ever increasing pagan world, pagan culture! Amen?

—CHARLES SPEER

From a Sunset International Bible Institute publication of "Lifeline"
Edited, primarily shorten, to fit our bulletin... Randall

Blessed Assurance

Doubt not properly dealt with inhibits our faith in God. Satan knows this, so his first priority is to plant doubt in our heart. What we need is assurance...

Assurance of Salvation. Too many of us live and die with our fingers crossed. There's no need for this. Jesus said, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." We can know we are saved, heaven bound people. "My little children, I write you these things so that you may know you have eternal life." Some of us doubt our salvation, because we didn't know we could know. We can! "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Assurance of Forgiveness. Those under the Law of Moses never experienced the freedom we enjoy in Christ. They were called to an annual remembrance of their sins. In Christ we have forgiveness, total and absolute forgiveness through His blood. The Hebrew's writer has God saying, "The time is coming when I will make a new covenant, I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sin no more." Isn't it time in my life and yours that we obey God and then rest in His promise of no guilt living? Absolutely!

Assurance of His Continual Power and Presence. Scripture tells us that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble – Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Life is tough. We need help everyday: Help in our daily struggles: Help with temptation. Help in our relationships. Help in time of trouble and sickness. Help in loneliness.

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!"

—RANDALL CASELMAN

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/14/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....	Marquis Elliott	Prayer & Scripture	Randall Hunt
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Bill Alumbaugh	Greeters/Handouts.....	Joe Hott & James Branstetter

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader.....	Mark Bagwell	Prayer & Scripture	Tracy Bowman
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Bryan Busbee	Greeters/Handouts.....	Mike Spencer & Howard Hurst

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator.....	Mike York	Streaming Coordinator	Elijah Johnson
Audio Coordinator.....	Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator	Aaron Bagwell