

Family & Friends..... October 13, 2021

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace. This beautiful hymn was written by Helen H. Lemmel in 1918 and published in 1922. She was 54 when she wrote this while visiting a missionary friend, Lillias Trotter. She had read a gospel tract by Lillias titled “Focused,” that inspired her to write this hymn. Helen loved music and her parents allowed her to receive voice lessons from the finest teachers. She was a member of a women’s quartet and traveled and brought concerts to small rural towns. She was talented enough to be a professional singer, but Helen sought fulfillment using her musical gifts as a form of ministry to God. She wrote over 500 hymns and poems over the years. Helen said, “How easy it becomes even for those of us who profess to be faithful followers of Christ to get caught up in the things of earth, so that our heavenly vision and values become blurred and dull. This often happens even when we are active in our Christian activities, we become so involved in merely doing things for God, that we miss the real blessing of enjoying the personal fellowship of Christ Himself in our daily lives.” During Helen’s midlife she went blind but kept writing her hymns and poems. She would call her friends in the middle of the night to write the words for her before she forgot them. When friends ask how she was doing, she would always reply, “I’m doing well in the things that count.” To God Be the Glory!

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

Those on our prayer list: Pat Musson will have surgery for breast cancer on November 1st at Mercy Hospital. Please keep Pat and Bob in your prayers. Also, Bob and Pat asked for prayers for their granddaughter, Sarah, who got a concussion last week while playing basketball for Cottey College in Missouri. Connor Evans asks that we pray for his friend, Mary. Amy Bowman asks for prayers for her friend, Donna Rowland, who has stage 3 lung cancer. Continue to pray and remember Susan Duffy, Chuck Pippin, Lou Hollo, Jennifer Oxford, Monica Klingman’s father, Bob, Priscilla Paugh, Steve Ashcraft, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

We give a big welcome to June Bacon who placed membership Sunday morning with our congregation. We love you June!

Items for Fair Haven Children’s Home: French style green beans, pumpkin, tuna, cream soups, pickles, and paper plates. Food Pantry items: green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, canned yams/sweet potatoes, Stovetop/stuffing mix, gravy mixes, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, pie fillings & pie crust mixes.

Jesus longs for our fellowship even more than we long for His. 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 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies’ Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

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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The Gifts of God

One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:23-28 ESV)

Jesus was often at odds with the religious folks of his day; many of these encounters – like the one above – had to do with Jesus’s actions on the Sabbath. Sabbath was a very important part of the rhythm of life for Israel. It was one of the identity markers of God’s chosen people. It was also one of the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. No wonder those who wanted to be God’s people, those like the Pharisees, were so adamant that it be kept and kept correctly.

The Sabbath was indeed important. God had given Sabbath as a gift to his people (Exodus 16:29). God had commanded his people to keep the Sabbath, and keep it holy. Breaking the Sabbath had serious consequences. Israelites who were guilty of breaking this were to be executed (Exodus 31:14-16).

God had given Israel two reasons for observing this day: 1) to remember him as creator (Exodus 20:8-10) and 2) to remember him as their deliverer (Deuteronomy 5:14-15). In other words, they were to rest in the fact that God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in them could be trusted to take care of his people and his creation. It was a day to appreciate all he had made and the way in which he

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provides and cares for his creation. They were also to rest in God's deliverance. He had rescued them from slavery to be his people and they were to remember this amazing act of grace.

By the time of Jesus, however, the Sabbath had changed from being a blessing to becoming a burden. Instead of a time of celebration, worship, and rest, it had become just another thing that must be done. It had become an opportunity to judge and condemn instead of love as the redeemed people of God. I believe that is the point of the statement we hear from Jesus, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." In other words, what God had intended as a gift was being misused.



We, as broken human beings, have a tendency to do the same thing with the gifts that God has given. Sex is a beautiful gift given by God to express love and intimacy between husband and wife. Yet we see this gift used to inflict harm, assert control, and do real damage

when not practiced as God intended. Family and relationships are blessings, gifts from God. Every day it seems we read of domestic abuse, neglect, and mistreatment. We see the results of not appreciating God's gift and misusing what he has given.

God had indeed given us much. He has given us a revelation of himself in Scripture. Sadly, this can also be misused. Instead of being used to reveal God and his great love for us, it can be used to forward personal agendas, to manipulate, and assert control over others.

God has given his Son as a supreme act of mercy and grace. He has poured out his love and made his forgiveness available to us when we were actively rebelling against him. He has given freely to us. Yet sometimes we fail to extend that grace and love to others around us. We have been told of his great saving love, but we are sometimes reluctant to pass that along to others. Instead of conduits of his grace, we are content merely to be containers.

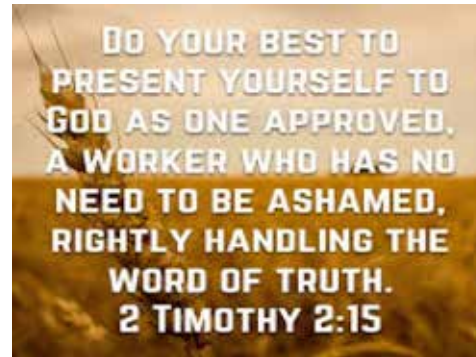
Let's take some time this week to remember the great gifts that God has given to us and spend some time seriously reflecting on the ways in which we have used them. Let's always remember the God who created and delivered us, and move in the direction of his will for us and others.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Spiritual Smoothies

I don't know who thought of putting kale in a blender and liquefying it and calling it a smoothie, but they ought to be put in jail! And adding a few strawberries and blueberries is a waste of good fruit. I don't even know where kale came from . . . but I'm pretty sure it wasn't in Eden! We won't even talk about what it looks like. And I don't trust people who say they like it. I can understand why folks on a diet claim it helps them lose weight—if that's all you have for lunch, one taste and you pour the rest down the drain.

My mother used to say, "You don't have to go all the way around by Aunt Sarah Jane's house to get there." For those who are unfamiliar with southern euphemisms, that's a kind way of saying, "You took too long to get to your point." Sometimes I enjoy visiting with Aunt Sarah Jane.



Here's my point. When it comes to religion, there are lots of folks who have agendas. They have personal reasons for wanting to believe certain things and they want it to appear to be supported by the Bible, so

they throw in a few scriptures without regard to their context. If it's something that has popular appeal, maybe lots of other folks will join in.

Peter warns about "false prophets [who] secretly introduce destructive heresies (self-willed opinions) . . . many will follow their shameful ways . . . these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up . . ."

The only safeguard we have against such false teaching is an unswerving commitment to God's Word.

Just because you throw in a few strawberries doesn't make it fit to eat.

-KEN STEGALL

Jackson St. church of Christ
Monroe, LA



Join Us For Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 30th, 4:00 pm

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/17/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Roger Arnold	Song Leader	Sammy McCain
Greeters	David Saunders, Chris Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Joe Hott
		Closing Prayer	Randall Hunt
Nursery Workers		Patsy McCool, Jennifer Stephens	

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Ray Reiss	Song Leader	Marquis Elliott	
Greeters	Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Mitchell Whittington	
		Closing Prayer	Curt LaPorte	
Nursery Workers		Abby Willis, Jennifer Royer	Van Driver	Janis Thompson

October Worship Coordinators

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