

Family & Friends..... October 6, 2021

Hello October, Hello Fall. It is officially Autumn and now you can start pulling out your cozy warm clothing and your favorite chilly weather recipes. October 1st was World Smile Day; all I can say we always get lots of smiles from our congregation and our visitors. Keep those smiles flowing! Let's get into the Fall mood! Anyone noticed those white pumpkins around our area? Some call them Ghost Pumpkins. They are now using them to decorate with and the white pumpkins work well with all your recipes, I read. I still like the orange ones better. The leaves will soon bring forth their beauty before the end of the month. Did you know that Fall colors are hidden underneath summers green. The main reason for the color change is not because of the cold weather of autumn, but light or rather, the lack of it. Trees with a lot of direct sunlight will produce red leaves, while other trees may turn yellow, orange, or brown. Here's a puzzle for you. "Often we are covered with wisdom and wit, and oft with a cloth where the dinner guests sit; In beauty around you and over your head, we are countless, though numbered when bound to be read." Close your eyes and think what you enjoy most about Autumn and guess the answer. I might have left you a hint. God is awesome and we enjoy His seasons!

"Do you not say, there are yet four months, and then comes the harvest"? Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. John 4:35

Those on our prayer list: Pat Musson will have surgery on October 7th. Keep Pat and Bob both in your prayers! Chris McSweeney had surgery last week and now has to heal, you are in our prayers, Chris. Shirley Hale's niece, Sara and her husband Dave, both have Covid. A friend of Amy Bowman, Donna Rowland, has stage 3 lung cancer. Amy asked for prayers for her. Pricilla Paul also had a stroke and needs our prayers. Pray for Steve Ashcraft who is on a mission trip and will be there for about a month. Continue to remember our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, a cure for Covid.

Parker said we will have Trunk or Treat for the young people this year, and help is needed. See Parker if you can help.

The Area Wide Worship Service will be on November 14th this year at the Springdale Highschool Performing Arts Center.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: cream soups, egg noodles, salad dressings, carrots, and tea bags. October Food Pantry: green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, cranberry sauce, canned yams/sweet potatoes, stuffing mix/Stovetop, gravy mixes, instant potatoes, pie fillings, and pie crusts.

When you find time on your hands, put them together in prayer. 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	
Early Worship	8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY	
Ladies' Class	9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	7:00 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

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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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Why?

The book of Job is a wonderful book with many things for us to learn. As Bible students we are familiar with the narrative. Job, a blameless and upright man has an abundance of everything a person could want. He has a large family. He has flocks, herds, camels, servants, and is a respected member of his community. Job 1:4 labels him as "the greatest of all the people of the east." Then through a series of terrible events he loses it all: his children, his flocks, his herds, his position in the community and even his health.

Much of the book gives us a view of Job and his friends wrestling with why this might have happened and what Job must do to get things back on the right track. All of his friends who come to visit believe they have the answer. Job has obviously sinned and if he would just admit it, things would be fixed. Job disagrees. He knows he has not sinned. He knows that he is suffering, but he did not bring this on himself.

The question before these characters we meet in this book is one with which we have wrestled before. Why do the righteous suffer? Why do bad things happen to good people, to God's people? So, it just makes sense that when bad things happen, when we suffer, we should come to this great book to find answers. The problem is that we don't find the answer to this question anywhere in the book of Job.

Could it be that we are looking for an answer to the wrong question? It is not "Why do the righteous suffer?" The question that Job challenges us to answer is, "Why do we fear God?" That is the question posed by the adversary in Job 1:9. "Does Job fear God for no reason?" Or, if you will allow the paraphrase, "Will Job fear God without all the blessings of family, position, flocks, herds, and wealth?" It is a sobering question. Why do we fear God? Is it because of what he will give us? Is it because of who he is?

LIVESTREAMING



I admire Job. I really do. Through all of his loss, through all the misguided direction given by his friends, he never gives up his faith. He cries out to God. He accuses God. He challenges God. He wants his day in court with God. But he never gives up his faith that only God can do something about his problems.

Job has a lot to teach us about faith. One thing we get to see in the life of Job is the way in which his view of God changes. In the opening of the book the author says, *“And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate (his children), and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did continually.” (Job 1:5 ESV)*

Job offered sacrifices to God just in case his children had sinned. We may find this admirable, but I wonder if Job did this because he saw God as one who watched his steps and waited for him to step out of line so he could punish him, as though God were just waiting to pronounce him guilty. We see other indications of this view of God as Job speaks throughout the book. He wishes God would stop watching him (Job 7:17-20). He accuses God of creating him only to destroy him (Job 10:3-8). He just can't understand why God has become his enemy. He wants to hear from God. Then God shows up.

What Job learns as God addresses him in the final chapters of the book are things that you and I need to hear. Job learns that God is one who is thoughtful and purposeful in his creation. He learns that God's wisdom is far above what any of us as human beings created by God can understand. He learns that God has an immense love for his creation, all of his creation. What he sees is God who can be trusted and relied upon even in the midst of his deepest hurts and sufferings.

Why do we fear God? How do we see him? Do we see him as the lawgiver and judge who waits for us to step out of line and delights in our punishment? Do we see him as the one who is far removed from us and far above us and is cold and distant?

My prayer is that we see him as lawgiver and judge. I pray that we recognize his power and wisdom that is far, far above our own. But I hope that we see him as one who loves us deeply; so deeply in fact that he came here in the person of Jesus. I pray that we see him with outstretched arms reaching and inviting us into his life and purpose. I hope and pray that we see him as the Father to whom we can turn in every season of life, in joy or in sorrow. I pray that we fear him because of who he is; the one who loves us and wants to be with us forever.

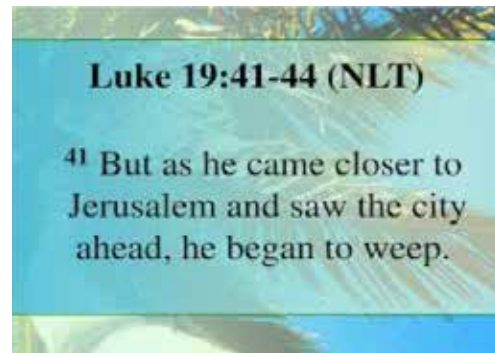
-JEFF GRISHAM

The Weeping Christ

Every time I read the gospels, I am more impressed with both the humanity and deity of Jesus. Of course, that's why they were written, to help us get to know Jesus better and better, and thereby strengthening our faith and leading us to eternal life with Him (John 20:30-31). But the particular thing about Jesus that caught my attention this time is found in Luke 19:41-42:

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.’”

There is another more familiar verse about Jesus weeping found in John 11. On that occasion, the cause of Jesus' tears was the death of a dear friend. He loved Lazarus and



his sisters, and he shared tears of compassion with Mary and Martha at Lazarus' death. But he knew those tears would be short lived. He knew that in just a matter of moments the tears would turn to

laughter and praise to God when He would call to His friend, *“Lazarus, come out!”*

However, in Luke 19 Jesus' tears were different. On this occasion his compassion and weeping for the city of Jerusalem were not going to end in laughter and praise. Unlike the situation with Lazarus, there was nothing Jesus could do to turn His weeping into joy. His deity wouldn't allow it. As a whole, the people of Jerusalem were spiritually hard-hearted. He would have loved to have gathered them together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but they refused (Luke 13:34). They were unwilling to accept His help, even with their greatest needs. Oh how He wanted to! He longed with all His heart to help. But all He could do was weep for them. Even though He could see the ugly destruction that lay ahead of them and even though He had the power to protect them from that suffering, in the end all He could do was weep.

Jesus didn't love Lazarus any more than He loved the people of Jerusalem. He wept for both. Jesus doesn't love any person more than any other person. God showed how much He loves the entire world by sending Jesus to the cross (John 3:16). For some, Jesus' love and compassion will result in eternal life. But for most, His love and compassion will result in death and destruction (Matthew 7:14). The difference is not Jesus. The difference is us. Lazarus loved Jesus, believed in Jesus, followed Jesus. Jesus' tears for him ended in blessings. On the other hand, Jerusalem did not believe in or love or follow Jesus. His tears for them are the most heart-breaking of all. They were tears about what could have been, yet in the end were tears without hope.



Jesus' compassion for people is evident in His tears. He loves us more than we can know. Jerusalem had the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus, but they were unwilling to do so. My prayer is that you will accept His offers of help by believing in Him, loving Him and obeying Him. You don't want His tears to be hopeless.

-JOE CHESSEY
Fruitland Church of Christ
Jackson, Missouri

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/10/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Aaron Sloan Song Leader Anthony Christiano
Greeters David Saunders, Chris Johnson Communion Scripture & Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
Closing Prayer Chad Dobbs
Nursery Workers Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Mike Spencer Song Leader Lee McCain
Greeters Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson Communion Scripture & Prayer Tom Verkler
Closing Prayer Jerry Orr
Nursery Workers Robbie Balentine, Linda Goings Van Driver Charles Flanary

October Worship Coordinators

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