

Family & Friends..... November 2, 2022

What is the power of thank you and being thankful? At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. When someone does something nice for us, we should always thank them. It is our blessing to receive and their blessing of giving with a cheerful heart. A thankful heart opens the door for blessings from God, but a proud one blocks them. To be thankful we must first be humble. "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." by John Bunyan and "I woke up, I have clothes to wear, I have running water, I have food to eat, life is good, God is great, I am thankful." Author Unknown We are to be lights in a dark world, and one easy way we can bring light is to have thankful hearts and express our gratitude always. The Bible encourages us to count our blessings and praise the Lord. To God Be the Glory!

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. Psalm 100:4

We are grateful for our visitors: Steve & Carla Bochrok (Sun City, AZ), Suzie Carnley (Caddo Mills, TX), Gene & Sheila Loomis (Stafford, MO), Janet Moreland (Webb City, MO), David Rhodes (Rockaway Beach, MO), Mika & Kathleen Spencer (St Joseph, MO), Kevin Ward (Clinton, MI), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Alivia Bockholt, Steve & Lael Ellison, and Joyce Parks. BV

Those on our prayer list: Howard Hurst is recovering after kidney surgery. The Albers are at Mayo Clinic concerning Andrew's heart issues. Keep the Phillips and Bagwell families in your prayers in the loss of their loved ones. Pat and Bob Musson, Susan Duffy, Lee Horton (still having tests). Becky Doncell fell and broke her ankle, had surgery, and now in rehab. Continue to remember and pray for our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

November Food Pantry: Cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, green beans, Cranberry sauce/jelly, Instant potatoes, Canned yams/sweet potatoes, Stuffing mix/Stovetop, gravy mixes, and pie fillings. Remember Thanksgiving in a few weeks! Children's Home: Cranberry sauce, green beans, pie fillings, sweet potatoes, gravy mixes & Stuffing mix/stovetop.

The Christian's heart is the Holy Spirit's home. 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

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott  
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

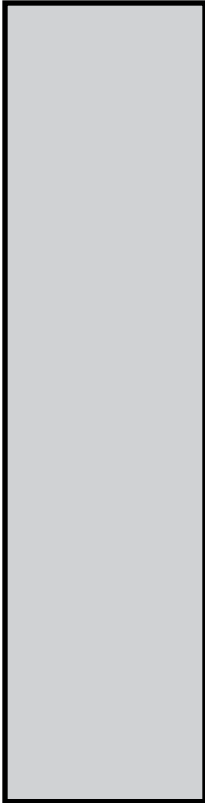
LORD'S DAY  
Early Worship 8:15 AM  
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM  
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY  
Ladies' Class 9:45 AM  
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

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Bella Vista

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:6-7 ESV)

We pride ourselves on being a free people in a free country. We are very sensitive about this freedom that we have. We are free to do what we want (within limits). We are free to say what we want. We are free to think for ourselves, pursue the life we want, choose our own direction, and make our own way in life.

This might be why this statement from Jesus seems so abrasive, and in the mind of some, so unlike what we think of when we think of the life and ministry of Jesus. After all, this is the man who upset so many of the religious leaders of his time by welcoming people that they had excluded (Matthew 9:10-11). Jesus is the one who touched lepers, healed the sick, cast out demons and invited all to follow him. This statement that we find in John's Gospel is a very exclusive claim. Jesus states very plainly that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus is the Way. The general spirit of our times argues that any way, any path is acceptable. Any path we choose for ourselves will lead to fulfillment and our ultimate happiness. There is a belief that all religions lead ultimately to God, or at least our version of what God should be. It sounds good. It is certainly inoffensive, but according to Jesus, it's just not true. He is the only one in whom forgiveness can be found. He is the only one who gives access to the Father. To believe and to act otherwise is to deny the reality of the identity of Jesus as the Word who became flesh. To accept that there are many ways to God other than Jesus is to devalue and disregard the great love that God has shown us in Jesus.

LIFELINES



**Jesus is the Truth.** Jesus is the embodiment of truth. He demonstrates for us the truth of who God is. In Jesus we see that God is loving, merciful, gracious, and desires to be with us, and for us to be with him. We also see the truth of God’s holiness, righteousness, and sovereignty. Jesus came to show us the Father.

The understanding that there is objective truth seems to have been on the decline for quite a while. The notion that truth is subjective and based mainly on our lived experience appears to be the prevailing theory. In other words, what is true for you may or may not be true for me. We see this every day. Two opposing views on the exact same issue are both claiming to be true. As tempting as this option may be, and as inoffensive and non-confrontational as it appears, it is just not reality.

**Jesus is the Life.** He is the author of life and sovereign over life and death. He is the hope we have of life eternal in the presence of God the Father. He also serves as the model for what life, real life, is supposed to be. In him we see a life devoted to doing the will of the Father. We see a life focused on bringing glory to God and inviting others to join in that pursuit. We see a life defined by the Great Commandments of loving God with all his being and loving others. We see humanity as it was supposed to be.

No doubt, this kind of life will infringe on our freedom. It will cause us to step down off the throne and allow Jesus to reign. We will have to let him direct our steps. We may not be able to say anything we want, because we are called to be sensitive to the needs of others. We may have to think differently about life, about the events of the day, or about the value of other people who are created in the image of God.

It seems that the two “cardinal sins” of our time are to exclude anyone from anything regardless of reason, and to offend anyone by anything we say or do. These words of Jesus do not give us the right to be mean spirited, judgmental, or to exclude others just because they aren’t like us. These words are not an invitation for us to be purposefully offensive in how we talk to or about other. We are, however, called to follow Jesus as he has shown us the way to the Father. We are to live out the truth of his identity and reflect his character. We are to submit to his authority as the one who determines right and wrong. Our lives are to be continually shaped and formed to look more like his life. And, we are to invite and welcome others to follow Jesus with us.

-JEFF GRISHAM

**Jesus Shaped Disciples**

*"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26-27)*

Discipleship, the word means to become a learner, one who follows a teacher, submits to his teachings, but to Jesus it means more, much more.

**What Jesus Expects of His Disciples...**

**That we have no RIVALS.** (Luke 14.26) “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life he cannot be my disciple.” Jesus demands first loyalty. Anything less is unacceptable. This verse bothers some because of Jesus’ use of the word hate. There is no place for hate of others in the life of a disciple. Jesus is making a distinction between two types of love: Divine love and human love - Redemptive love and possessive love. One is selfish; the other places its object before self and all others. Of course we are to love our parents, wife, children, brothers and life. But this human love is no rival for our love of God. At Mount Sinai it was "no other gods before Me." Jesus insisted that first and foremost genuine discipleship demands loving God with all our being, "an unrivaled love." Paul declared in Colossians 1.18 that Christ must have pre-eminence in all things. Using this definition, are we a disciple?

**There must be no REFUSALS.** (Luke 14.27) "Take up your cross and follow Me." Bonhoeffer wrote, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” Folk, a cross is not something we carry through life; a cross is something we die upon! Paul tells us in Romans six that we must "crucify the old man, and be raised to live a new life." Then in First Corinthians he indicates that we must "die daily to self, Satan, sin, and the world and be alive to Christ."

This was Paul’s message in Galatians 2.20: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Discipleship is following the way of Jesus as seen in His garden prayer, “Not My will, but Yours be done.” We see such “way of the cross” dying in Paul’s statement: “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has

been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Indeed, discipleship is the result of taking up the cross (dying) and following Jesus (living the new life). By this standard, can we say that we are His disciple?

**With Jesus, there can never be a RETREAT.** (Luke 14.33) “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything cannot be My disciple.” The rich young ruler had to make a choice. Scripture indicates that he went away in sorrow because he was unwilling to pay the price of discipleship: Jesus before money. Another wanted to follow Jesus, but insisted that he should first go bury his father. The idea seemed to be that he would follow Jesus after his father’s death. Others vowed to follow Him after bidding their family good-bye. But Jesus had already indicated in Luke 9.62 that “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Christianity has always been a religion of perseverance, not giving up, keeping-on-keeping-on. Jesus kept saying to the seven churches of Asia, "he who overcomes will receive the reward." Discipleship is pictured as a fight to fight, a race to run, a walk to walk, a faith to keep. Using these Biblical terms, are we His disciple?

Jesus admonishes us to count the cost of following Him. May God help each of us to be willing to meet the demands, pay the price of discipleship. Amen?

-RANDALL CASELMAN

From *Lifelines* December 12, 2018

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 11/6/22			
First Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Roger Arnold	Song Leader .....	Anthony Christiano
Greeters .....	Terry Roberts, Joe Hott	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Bill Alumbaugh
Closing Prayer.....		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers .....		Janet Alumbaugh, Patsy McCool	
Second Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	John Caylor	Song Leader .....	Lee McCain
Greeters .....	Howard Hurst, Don Cope	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Bob Alberson
Closing Prayer.....		Ray Reiss	
Nursery Workers .....		Jennifer Royer, Cheryl Royer	
		Van Driver .....	
		Jim Branstetter, Kyle Dillard	
November Worship Coordinators			
Worship Coordinator .....	Mike York	Streaming Coordinator .....	James Beaty
Audio Coordinator .....	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator .....	Marquis Elliott