

Family & Friends..... February 15, 2023

Great is Thy Faithfulness written by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm in 1923, is a very popular hymn. Thomas was born in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky in 1866. He suffered with bad health most of his adult life, but lived to the ripe old age of 94. Thomas' words were, "God has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, which have filled me with astonishing gratefulness." It is because of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. His compassions fail not. They are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). Being truly faithful to God shapes the way we live our lives. Faithfulness requires us to submit our ways to God. It comes from a place of realizing that we are in need of a Savior and that He is in control of our lives. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." We come together each week in Christian fellowship, listening to God's word, and singing praises to our faithful Heavenly Father with beautiful hymns like this. To God Be the Glory!

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Love, love, love our visitors: Jess Wike (Branson, MO), Landon Crabtree and Jessica Wheeler (Ft. Smith), Luther Green (Pea Ridge), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Toni Cummings and Dwayne & Tammy Hawkins (Centerton), Anna England (Bentonville), Carolyn Brown, Linda McMillan, And JD & Tina Wellesley (BV) and Jerry and Cathy Schimming.

Those on our prayer list: Please keep Joy Sawyer and the family in your prayers in the loss of Jamie. Mike Lacey is in rehab and hopes to be home soon. Abby McSweeny will have knee surgery on February 24th. Sarah Butcher has been able to join her family in Germany after her recent fall. Continue to remember and pray for Jackie Morris, Michael Hale, Eva Phillips, Tim Short, Susan Duffy, Becky Donceel, our missionaries, our military and police, our country, leaders and President. Let's give lots of prayers for the people in Turkey and Syria who have suffered from the horrific earthquake last week. Today they said over 50 thousand have been killed and they are still searching. Pray for those who are helping with the rescue and for the medical workers.

A big welcome to our newest members: Steve & Lael Ellison. Welcome to our congregation! Make sure to meet them and welcome them to the family.

Children's Home List: Popcorn, brownie mix, corn muffin mix, snacks, and body wash. Food Pantry: Pancake mix/syrup, Mac & Cheese, beef-based soups, 4# sugar, 5# flour, canned carrots, green peas, spaghetti sauce or alfredo sauce, beefaroni/ravioli, and vegetable oil.

Don't despair because of evil; God will have the last word. 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

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ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....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 Mike Spencer
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mike Martin Jerry Snyder

MINISTERS

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

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All Things New

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

(Revelation 21:1-5)

What a vision! What a thought! Making all things new sounds exciting. We like new. We like new houses, new cars, new clothes, and new adventures. "New" gets our attention. Even if we prefer older things, vintage things like cars or houses, we really like them if they have been restored to "like new" condition.

New excites us. The really exciting thing about this particular passage in Revelation is that the "all things" includes you and me. We can be made new. In fact, in order to be a part of this grand vision that John shares with us, we must be made new.

We hear that from Jesus all throughout his ministry. In Matthew 4, at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus we read: *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* This indicates that the way in which we operated prior to being called into the kingdom has to change. The way we thought, the way we viewed the world around us, the way we dealt with people around us will all have to change. We will live in a new way and see the world completely differently.

MEMBERS



The language of losing our lives in order to follow Jesus (Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35) makes that same claim. John's account of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus makes this incredibly clear.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:1-3)

A new birth, a fresh start, has a wonderful sound. It is something that we have all wanted. It is something we find ourselves desiring. We want to be restored to "like new" condition. Thanks to God, this can happen.

The description of this change as a new birth reminds us that this is not something we accomplish on our own. Think of our first birth. You and I didn't decide to be born. We didn't choose it. We didn't cause it. We were only the beneficiaries of it.

God is ultimately the one who makes us new. He is the only one who can. He has done so much to make it possible. He sent his Son so that we could be made new. But he does this with our cooperation. Unlike our physical birth, we decide to participate in the new one.

Being born of water and spirit, as Jesus describes this new birth to Nicodemus, is a reference to baptism. It is in baptism where person we once were is buried and a new life begins. It is in baptism where we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit who leads, guides, and makes us holy.

Baptism is not the end of the story, but only the beginning. From that new birth, we are continually being made new due to the gift of the Spirit. That also is not done without our cooperation. We must continually submit to the lead of the Holy Spirit. We spend time in studying God's word. We spend time in prayer. We gather with the church and worship. We spend time getting to know Jesus and how he would have us live.

We all long to be made new. We all look forward to the time when God will make everything new. We look forward to being with him, seeing him face to face. To do that, we have to be willing to follow the lead of Jesus. We have to be willing to cooperate with God. We do that because we know it will be worth it.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Our Faith Agreement With God

Blood running down His face from the crown of thorns, His back hanging in ribbons from the scourging, His face bruised from the beating, slapping, fisting; nails in His hands and feet. Every muscle ached. David describes His pain: *"All my bones are out of joint; My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within Me. My strength is dried up, My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth, I can count all My bones. My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? (Psalm 22. 14-15, 17, & 1).* In His pain, Jesus uttered seven phrases from the cross. We focus on one: *"Into Your hands I commit My spirit."* A direct quote from an opening prayer in Psalm 31.

I understand that the Jewish evening prayer was one where the worshiper entrusted their soul to God for the night by saying: *"Into Your hands I commit my spirit."* Then, in the morning prayer, the worshiper expressed his or her gratitude to the Heavenly Father for safely returning their soul. We taught our children to pray similarly: *"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep."*

It's interesting that this prayer is picked up by Jesus as He cried out in dying pain: *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."* The Hebrew word for, "I commit" is "af-kid" and has the connotation of something that is deposited and

will be reclaimed in the future. This would have Jesus saying "I deposit My spirit." It would be like depositing our money in the bank. We have a fiduciary agreement with them; we expect to be able to get our deposit back. The Hebrew has an unequivocal meaning of the temporary deposit of one's spirit into the hand of God, into His custody. Jesus is simply expressing His faith and trust in the Father. He knew full well that He would receive it back because he had a fiduciary agreement with the Father. Indeed, three days after the "deposit" He received it back again.



So, the question becomes, do you and I have such a fiduciary agreement with the Father? We must!! Hebrews 11.6 tells us that without it we cannot be pleasing to God. Have we committed, deposited, our soul with Him by dying to sin and being raised to walk a new life? Paul tells us when this fiduciary agreement occurs: *"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"..."We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"* (Galatians 3.26-27 & Romans 6.4).

By faith and trust in God, we commit, deposit, our soul, our marriage, our career, our finances, our entertainment choices, our morals, our religious activity, our trials and pain, our joys and sorrows. We do this, knowing full well that we will receive His promise to walk with us here, and eternal life after death.

My prayer is that we've all committed, deposited, our life and future into His care.

- RANDALL CASELMAN
From *Lifelines* June, 26, 2019

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 2/19/23

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Mark Tucker Song Leader Anthony Christiano
Greeters Chad Dobbs, Phil Ward, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Joe Hott
Closing Prayer Cory Spruiell
Nursery Workers Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Jim May Song Leader Tyler White
Greeters Chad Dobbs, Stephen Hunt, Jerry Snyder Communion Scripture & Prayer John Bowman
Closing Prayer Ray Reiss
Nursery Workers Vicki Lunsford Van Driver Mark/Wilma Bagwell

February Worship Coordinators

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