

Family & Friends..... March 1, 2023

“All Things Bright and Beautiful,” was a poem written by C.F. Alexander in the 1800’s, and set to melody as a hymn later. Cecil was born in Dublin, Ireland and later married a fellow poet, William Alexander. Her first book of “Hymns for Little Children” was published in 1848 and contained this hymn. She wrote over 400 hymns and many poems. Her words were an expression of how she went about her daily routine and encouraged others by her example. She was referred to as the woman with the huge heart and endless compassion for the desperate and afflicted. “All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings. The purple headed mountains, The river running by, The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky. The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruit in the garden, He made them every one. The tall trees in the greenwood, The meadows where we play, The rushes by the water, We gather everyday. He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell, How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.” Thanks to Patsy Tarr for sharing this poem and hymn with me. To God Be the Glory!

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

We are blessed each week with our visitors: Milo & Karen Hadwin (Searcy), Luther Green (Pea Ridge), Sharilu Brown and Duane & Tammy Hawkins (Centerton), Anna England (Bentonville), and Ted Irby (Bella Vista).

Those on our prayer list this week: Michael Hale has been moved to the House of Three in Bella Vista. Wade Nichols will have oral surgery this month. Our sympathies to Susan Cluck in the loss of her uncle. Stan Hankins had a procedure at Mercy on Tuesday. Abby McSweeney had knee surgery last Thursday. Rosalyn Patterson is in room 108A at Jamestown Rehab in Rogers. Susan Duffy will have surgery on March 15th. Debbie Helms is recovering from hernia surgery. Continue to remember and pray for Jim Caylor, Jackie Morris, Becky Donceel, our missionaries, our military and police, our leaders, president and country.

Items needed for Children’s Home: Canned chicken and tuna, Spam, Canola oil, and trash bags. We will have a update for items needed for our Food Pantry next week.

Don’t forget the Ministry Fair this coming Sunday, March 5th, between services. It will be a great time to explore the various ministries we have as a church and find a place to get involved. There will be no adult Bible classes that day.

All creation bears God’s autograph. 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) | |

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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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Bella Vista

Friend or Foe

Israel has made it to the land of Canaan just as God had promised. Now, under the leadership of Joshua, they would begin the conquest and take possession of the land God has sworn to give to Abraham. Just prior to their first battle to take the city of Jericho, Joshua encounters a somewhat mysterious man holding a sword. Not recognizing him, Joshua asks, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” (Joshua 5:13) It is a reasonable question, and one that seems pretty straightforward. The answer Joshua receives is not what he expects. “And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.” Joshua asks, “Whose side are you on? Is it: a) ours or b) theirs?” This man answers “None of the above.”

We read of Joshua’s reaction next. *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” And the commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.* (Joshua 5:14-15)

This encounter between Joshua and the Commander of the army of the Lord is very relatable. Joshua wants to know who it is that stands in front of him, but only knows two possible options, friend or enemy. He’s not prepared for a third possible category. The Commander of the Lord’s army is not going to be defined by Joshua’s limited thinking. Instead, he gives Joshua a new perspective.

I wonder if we fall into the same way of thinking that Joshua displays when it comes to Jesus. There are a lot of various “labels” we use to identify Jesus.

We call him friend. We see him as one who cares for us, one who can help us, one who gives us good advice on how to live. We can talk to him. He encourages us and gives

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us hope. He protects us. As the old hymn says, "What a friend we have in Jesus!"

We call him savior. Jesus came to rescue us from sin and death. He came to redeem us. Without him there is no hope. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

These are great things about Jesus. There are many more that we could list. He is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). He is our great high priest (Heb. 4:14). He is our advocate (1 John 2:1).

These are the things we love most about him. He is, however much more than these. He is Lord and Master. He is the Son of God. He is not only our advocate, but our judge. He sets the standards for how we live. He demonstrated what life looks like lived under the authority of the Father. He demands that we bring our lives under his control and do the same. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)

When we think of trying to define or label Jesus in some way, I think we may have it backwards. We like Joshua want to know if he is for us or against us. Really, it is Jesus who asks us that question. He will be a friend. He will be our Savior and Redeemer. He will be our great high priest, mediator and advocate. He will be all these things only if he is Lord and Master, and we let him rule our lives.

When we realize our condition in light of who Jesus really is, our response will be like Joshua's that we read earlier. *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"* I guess the question should be, "Whose side are we on?"

-JEFF GRISHAM

Quick Fix or Genuine Conversion

Our culture is obsessed with quick fixes: consolidate your debts; lose weight without dieting or exercise; no-fault divorce; get rich quick. Unfortunately quick fixes do not solve problems; they merely treat symptoms with short-term domestic results.

Today, we've moved this quick-fix approach into our religion, so we can feel good for the moment with little or no effort. We must know that to be right with God and others takes time, energy and effort. There is no quick and easy solution to sin and its consequences. Genuine conversion, sanctification, is a painful on-going process. A process that begins with a determinate decision with eternal results.

Instead of conversion, we want quick fix. Such things as faith without faithfulness; baptism without crucifixion of the old man; forgiveness without repentance; a savior without discipleship.

Genuine conversion is becoming a changed person. Peter's answer to those on Pentecost who were convinced and convicted that they had killed the anointed One, Messiah, and asked: "what must we do?" was: "Repent and be baptized." Baptism is a new birth. We are only baptized once, but repentance is an on-going process. Paul tells us in Romans that, "we are raised to walk in a new life." We are to live a changed life. Repentance is not incidental to conversion. "What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" Paul goes on to say that when we die to sin, we be become "instruments of God, living sacrifices." Conversion changes our value system: how we think, what we think about, how we talk, act, and react to life's situations.

Genuine conversion demands discipleship. Religious quick-fix advocates want a savior without Him becoming Lord and King of their life, without total submission to His will. Our generation shuns the idea of a Lordship Gospel. We don't want anyone telling us how to live; but conversion includes our walking as He walked, living according to His word, making His priorities, His agenda, our priorities, our agenda. Jesus said, "If you love Me you will keep My commandments. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus walked. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions,

and to live self-controlled, upright, godly lives in this present age; Eager to do what is good." No quick fix found here! Amen?

Genuine conversion includes perseverance. Sanctification is an ongoing process, sanctification is living by the Word: "Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy Word is truth." Christianity is a religion of keeping-on-keeping on, being faithful, John writes "unto death." We must be able to say with Paul: "I have fought the fight, run the race, finished the course, kept the faith." The crown of life is not given as a quick fix, but as a reward for continual faithfulness. The Hebrews; writer says, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess." Genuine conversion demands continued faithfulness.

Religious quick fixes are only cosmetic Band-Aids. They give us instant relief and a momentary religious look, but offer no lasting cure to our sin-sickness. I believe John tells us how to treat our sin-ailment: "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, continues to cleanse us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

-RANDALL CASELMAN
From *Lifelines* May, 23, 2012

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/5/23

First Service

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Welcome, Prayer & Scripture | Steven Ashcraft | Song Leader | Sammy McCain |
| Greeters | Jack Johnson, Gary McCool, Terry Roberts | Communion Scripture & Prayer | Roger Arnold |
| Closing Prayer..... | | Dallas Dobbs | |
| Nursery Workers | | Patsy McCool, Shannon Hubanks | |

Second Service

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Welcome, Prayer & Scripture..... | Austin Bishop | Song Leader | Kyle Dillard |
| Greeters | Jack Johnson, Bob Spaw, John Bowman | Communion Scripture & Prayer | Mike Spencer |
| Closing Prayer..... | | Don Butcher | |
| Nursery Workers | | Muriel McSweeney, Abby McSweeney | |
| Van Driver | | Phillip Strickhausen | |

February Worship Coordinators

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Worship Coordinator | Mark Tucker | Streaming Coordinator | Chris Johnson |
| Audio Coordinator | Jim Caylor | Video Coordinator | James Beatty |