

Family & Friends..... April 12, 2023

Hope everyone had a great Easter Sunday and the children enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt! I think Spring has Sprung and the days are getting longer. It's the time when nature celebrates the miracles of life with rebirth and rejuvenation. In the Spring, baby Songbirds learn to sing. They learn by hearing their species sing when they are young and during their first learning stage. There is nothing more precious than going outside on a Spring morning and hearing them sing. Turn off the alarm clock and open up the window. It is the best wake-up call ever! Spring brings green and new growth to trees and plants and flowers start to bloom. There is excitement in the air as we wake-up to a new day of discovery! Everyone seems happier and enjoys the fresh morning breeze and the warm days. Life is good! God is good! To God Be the Glory!

Then He said to me, it is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. Revelation 21:6

Thank you, Lord, for all our Easter Sunday visitors! We will have the list for you next week.

Those on our prayer list: Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to Don Cope in the loss of his sister, Glenda. Please keep Don & Nan and the family in your prayers. Chris McSweeny was in Mercy for a few days with a severe headache. Continue to remember and pray for Carolyn Lacey in the loss of her husband Mike. Pray for the family of Tammy Laycox, who passed away suddenly last week. Tammy is a friend of Staci Grisham. Danny Cannon's father, Mike Harrington, suffered a stroke last week. Mark Bagwell's mother, Dorothy, has been placed in hospice care. June Bacon has asked us to pray for her son, Keith. Keith is in the hospital with a blood clot in his leg. He had surgery but couldn't get it all. Continue to remember and pray for Judith Carmical, Susan Duffy, Mike Hale, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president. The families in Nashville and Louisville in their loss of loved ones in the school and bank shootings.

Children's Home List: Hamburger Helper, snacks, juice, peanut butter, body wash. Food Pantry: Mac & Cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and canned fruit.

God's free gift to us cost Him dearly. Stay safe, love you.

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
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Josh Porter 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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Restorataion

In the final chapter of his gospel, John records an incredible encounter between the risen Jesus and some of his disciples. Peter and six others had spent the night fishing on the Sea of Tiberius (Galilee) with nothing to show for it. They were approaching the shore as the sun began to rise when they saw a lone figure standing on the shore. This yet unknown person asked if they had had any success. After they told him, "No," he told them where they should cast their net. They followed his instruction and caught more fish than they were able to haul. They recognized that this was no ordinary man on the shore that morning. It was none other than the risen Savior. At this discovery, Peter threw on his cloak, jumped into the water and swam about a hundred yards to be close to Jesus.

John doesn't tell us why Peter does this when the rest of the group seems content to bring the boat and their catch to the shore to meet Jesus. As Bible students we are aware of Peter's somewhat impulsive nature. As the one who is always ready to do something and often speaking maybe a little too quickly at times, perhaps it is just part of Peter's personality that causes him to do this. Maybe it is more than just that. It could be that he knows his desperate need to be close to Jesus. Considering his recent failure as he denied knowing Jesus, he needs to know that the relationship can be restored.

I think we can relate. There are those times in our lives when we know we have failed, we know we have damaged the relationship between ourselves and Jesus and it need to be made right. We need healing. We need restored. And just as he was on that particular day on the shoreline, Jesus stands ready to heal, forgive, and restore. Since that is the case, what is it that we need to do to access that gift of restoration?

Face our failures. As Peter ran up to Jesus that day, he found him standing by charcoal fire. It had not been very long ago that Peter was standing by another charcoal fire in the

MEMBER MINISTERS



courtyard of the High Priest. That night he had been asked about his relationship with Jesus. And just hours after asserting that he would lay down his life for Jesus (John 13:37), he denied being a follower. I wonder if Peter was tempted to back away from Jesus. Did he wonder if Jesus would even still want someone who had failed so badly to be part of his people?

Satan often whispers these kinds of questions in our ears. He wants us to see our failures as fatal. So, instead of running to Jesus, we keep our distance. We continue to carry the guilt of our failures with us, trying to keep them hidden. But distance from Jesus won't heal us. The only way to healing is to confess those faults, and realize that without him we can never be good enough, strong enough, or holy enough. Realizing our weaknesses and confessing our failures reminds us that we are utterly dependent on him to be made righteous. Distance won't help. We have to draw near to him for strength and help.

Fall on his mercy. It is impressive to me that Jesus never stops serving. He had taught, healed, fed, washed feet, and given his life for these men who were there that morning. As if that wasn't enough, he provided them with a net full of fish and fed them. He continues to have mercy and compassion.

Mercy and grace are sometimes hard for us to accept. We like to earn what it is that we have. Mercy and grace are gifts. They are extended to us because of the great love that Jesus has for us. We don't earn his forgiveness and restoration. He offers it to us as we realize our great need for it. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Follow his lead. After breakfast that morning, Jesus and Peter have a conversation that begins with Jesus asking Peter, "Do you love me?" Three times Jesus repeats this question with Peter responding, "Yes" every time. After each of Peter's answers, Jesus gives him a different but similar directive. "Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep." Each of these instructs Peter to follow in the steps of Jesus, doing what he had seen Jesus do.

Continuing to walk in steps of Jesus is where we find hope, healing, and purpose. Following after him and having our lives shaped more and more like his is our response to the healing and restoration that he has extended to us. It is a demonstration of the love that we have for the one who came to heal and to restore us when our sins had separated us from him.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Resurrection: What Does It Mean

The apostle John gave the following reason for writing his gospel: *"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name."* (John 20:30-31) These miracles were for the express purpose of proving conclusively that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ. But the greatest miracle of all, the one that gave vindication to all the other miracles, was the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This is the way the apostle Paul said it: *"Concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."* (Romans 1:3-4) His resurrection from the dead was the crowning and eternal proof that He is the Son of the Living God. By the resurrection He is alive; He lives!

The cross, on which Jesus shed His precious blood for our sins, should always remain central in our minds. Yet, is there not a valid point in Michelangelo's indignant protest against his fellow-painters: "Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures of the one ever-reiterated theme, of Christ in weakness, Christ upon the cross, Christ dying, and most of all Christ hanging dead? Why do you concentrate on that passing episode, as if that were the last word and the last scene, as if the curtain dropped upon that horror of disaster and defeat? At worst, all that lasted for only a few hours. But to the end of unending eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs." In the same vein of thought, I have heard teachers of very young children say: "In teaching the story of Jesus, never leave Him hanging on the cross."

What does the resurrection mean for Jesus? He is the Christ, the Son of God, and He lives! What does the resurrection mean for us?

First of all, the resurrection of Jesus guarantees to us a resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is a part of the good news, the gospel message. Paul told the Corinthians that the gospel he had preached to them, by which they were saved, consisted of the "death, burial and resurrection of Christ." (I Corinthians 15:1-3) But God lifts it above the level of news and makes it a pledge. Paul tells us: *"But now Christ has risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."* (I Corinthians 15:20)

Jesus Himself said, *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."* (John 5:28-29)

Secondly, the promises of God are guaranteed by, the resurrection of Christ. God's promises are *"exceedingly great and precious."* (2 Peter 1:4) God makes a promise; faith believes it; hope anticipates it. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* (I Peter 1:3)

Thirdly, Christianity actually rests upon the resurrection of Christ. In fact, Paul wrote: *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God.... For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."* (I Corinthians 15:13-19).

Wouldn't it be tragic to come to the end of life's way and have as our epitaph the words of the ancient Omar: "There was a door to which I found no key." That doesn't have to be! Jesus made this striking announcement: *"I am the first and the last. I am the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and hades."* (Revelation 1:17-18) Praise be to God for the resurrection of Christ!

- CHARLES CASH
(1938 - 2018)

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/16/23

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Joe Hott Song Leader Anthony Christiano
 Greeters Josh Porter, David Saunders, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer Randall Hunt
 Closing Prayer Mark Tucker
 Nursery Workers Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Bob Alberson Song Leader Mark Bagwell
 Greeters Josh Porter, Eric Gibson, Zach Ballard Communion Scripture & Prayer Chad Dobbs
 Closing Prayer Ray Reiss
 Nursery Workers Jamie Fulgham, Nan Cope Van Driver Phillip Strickhausen

April Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Aaron Bagwell
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott