

Family & Friends..... April 13, 2022

Anchor of the Soul - Because God wanted to show his unchangeable purpose even more clearly to the heirs of the promise, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner, because he has become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6: 17-20

Hope everyone has a beautiful Easter Sunday this Lord's Day on April 17th. Jesus Paid It All! Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

We are always blessed with our visitors: Buford & Julie Willis (Parker's parents), Mason & John Sites, and Zach Powers, Veneita Ballweber (Fort Scott, KS), Jaren Gwinn (Olathe, KS), Laura, Stella, Luke & Lizzy Richardson (Kevil, KY), Tom Chisholm (Spring Hill, KS), Teresa Marcotte (Pineville, MO), Jean Johnson (Neosho, MO), David & Sara Ellison (Fayetteville), Barbara Boudreaux (Pineville), Nathanael Green (BV), and Corbin Mabry.

We welcome our new members, Don Graves and Bonnie Benton! We love you!

Those on our prayer list: Don Cope's sister, Glenda Jones had surgery on April 12th and is in need of our prayers. Pat Musson is waiting results on tests, we pray for a good outcome. Continue to remember and pray for Robert Horton, Pam Bertschy, Donna Rowland, Doug Douthin, Marg Kahler, Millie Pougé, Trent Brock, Ramin Salimi, Steven and Karen Ashcraft (mission trip), our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and for the people of Ukraine.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Easter Sunday after 10:30 morning services. We are now a part of Bentonville Chamber of Commerce. Come join us for ribbon cutting ceremonies on April 26th at 11:30A.M., and have a good hotdog for lunch while you are with us. National Prayer Day on May 5th and Community Fun Day June 4th, with more details on these events coming soon.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: pie fillings, taco sauce, refried beans, corn meal, and tuna. For our Food Pantry: canned vegetables, tuna & chicken helper, Miracle Whip, mayo, relish, mustard, ketchup, and macaroni & cheese.

Even on the cross, Jesus forgave those who hurt Him. 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

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

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
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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MEMBERS

Seeing Is Believing

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:24-29)

Many of us are familiar with this narrative of the reaction of Thomas to the reality of the resurrection. I wonder if in the past we have been a little too hard on Thomas for his reaction. We often forget that "Doubting Thomas" was the one of the followers of Jesus who was ready to die with Jesus as Jesus came back to Judea to visit the family of Lazarus (John 11:16). But, when we stop to think about it for a minute, does his reaction really surprise us? Was his reaction really so different from the rest of the disciples?

Jesus had told his followers repeatedly that he would be crucified by the Romans in Jerusalem and would rise on the third day. Yet, when Mary Magdalene brought them the news of the empty tomb, they ran to go see for themselves. They also needed to see in order to believe. Jesus accommodated them, just as he accommodated Thomas.

Here we are. It is the week leading up to Easter



Sunday. We are at that time of year when the attention of many people is turned toward the empty tomb. Many will have spent this week (or even longer) with a special focus on the events leading up to the resurrection. Many others may be wondering, like Thomas and the rest of the disciples, if this really happened. The implications of the resurrection - God's defeat of death, the possibility of forgiveness of sins and being reconciled to God, the possibility of a life of hope and purpose and a wonderful future - may seem just too good to be true. They may wonder if they should dare to believe, to trust, and to stake their lives on it. They want to see some evidence.

At the end this encounter between Jesus and Thomas, Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." This may leave us to wonder how. How are people to believe this fantastic event without seeing?

Jesus did not leave us without a way to witness this great event. We have the eyewitness testimony of those who were there and saw it. The Gospel writers each give us an account of those events. Paul repeatedly tells of his experience with the risen Jesus in his speeches recorded in the book of Acts, and also in the letters he sends to the churches. I hope that we frequently revisit those accounts to remind us of the reality of the resurrection and its implications for us.

But what of those who may be skeptical of those accounts? Is there no way for them to grab hold of the blessings offered by the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

Again, Jesus has not left them without a witness. He has called us to be witnesses of the resurrection. It is by living lives that communicate the blessings of the resurrection that its reality is declared to those who are not certain. As those who live as beneficiaries of God's grace as displayed in the crucifixion and resurrection, our lives should testify to the blessings found there. Our lives, now changed by the resurrection of Jesus, should communicate hope, and demonstrate trust in God by living as he directs, certain that he is faithful to all his promises. The reality of the resurrection should color our lives in such a way as to let others see the impact of the resurrection, and the impact it can have on them as well. After all, seeing is believing. God bless.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Outreach and Impact

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia---your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God," (1 Thessalonians 1: 8-9)

What a church, this church in Thessalonica! What compliments from the pen of Paul, who brought the saving message to them. "You became imitators of us and the Lord." (verse 6) Paul continues, "You became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia." (verse 7) That's all of Greece. Then comes this extraordinary appraisal of this group of Christians, "The Lord's message rang out (or sounded forth) from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--Your faith in God has become known everywhere." First an imitator, then a model, then the result--sounding forth the message! Paul is saying, "Wherever I go your reputation has preceded me so that I don't need to say anything. People tell me about you and your faith and devotion to the "living God."

The original word translated "rang out," or "sounded forth"(KJV), is "execheo," which means a reverberation as in an echo, thunder, or the sounding board on a piano. A modern illustration would be a radio transmitting station.

Wouldn't it be great if, everywhere you go in Northwest Arkansas, or even all of Arkansas, the reputation of the church in Bella Vista has already preceded you and "Your faith in God has become known everywhere?" Is that not the way it should be? Do we not have the people, the wherewithal, the faith to make it a reality? It will take allowing God to work in and through our lives resulting in three things for this to happen:

First, the winsome and attractive lives of Christians. God gives us the picture of a Christian in His Word, but He leaves it to us to display Christianity to the world. To "adorn" the teaching, if you please. (Titus 2: 10) Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "God...through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15) The "aroma of Christ" is the smell of victory. The greatest argument for Christianity this world has ever known is the life of a godly

Christian, a "letter, known and read by everybody." (2 Corinthians 3:2)

Second, caring acts of service by the church. That's the name of the game, from the Elders, Preachers, Deacons down to the last new convert in the pew. Our Lord will make the same thing out of all of us, a servant. That's what Christianity is all about. Whether it is a need in the church or in the community, we ought to be there first with the most. "Do good to all men." (Galatians 6:10)

Third, the spoken message of God's Word. This is the same "message" the Thessalonians received that caused them to "turn from idols to serve the living God." That's the only message that brings salvation, peace and hope to a lost world. No wonder it is called the "gospel," meaning "good news."

The story of the church in Thessalonica can be our story, just as surely as there is an awesome God in heaven behind it all! The question is, will it be our story?

-CHARLES CASH
(1938 - 2018)



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/17/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Roger Arnold Song Leader Anthony Christiano
 Greeters David Saunders, Terry Roberts Communion Scripture & Prayer Randall Hunt
 Closing Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
 Nursery Workers Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Mike Spencer Song Leader Marquis Elliott
 Greeters Howard Hurst, Jack Johnson Communion Scripture & Prayer Bryan Busbee
 Closing Prayer Perry Johnson
 Nursery Workers Linda Goings, Jennifer Royer Van Driver Janis Thompson

April Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Harold Phillips Streaming Coordinator Abby Willis
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell