

Well the rain finally stopped and the hummingbirds have arrived. They acted like they were starving to death and took long drinks at the feeders. The rose-breasted grosbeak also made their appearance here in their tuxes. It is truly a beautiful bird. The males are known to sing more than 650 times per day. Then the woodpecker had to get in his two cents worth. He was clinging to the bottom of the hummingbird feeder. It ticked me off, but also made me laugh. What a sight! I hear the Baltimore orioles have also been making it here and looking for grape jelly. I have not seen them yet but hope to. Our faithful cardinals who are here year round are probably wondering when the new bunch will be leaving town. They don't usually stay but a few days and keep moving north. We will say goodbye to them on their way back south in the fall. Have you noticed everything is turning green? We live in a beautiful area! Thank you, Lord for blessing us with your creation and beauty! To God be the glory.

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

We love our visitors: Richard & Linda Sutter (Lakeville MN), Judith Carmical (Rogers), Tom Harris (Elkins), John & Chelsea, DJ, Savannah Reeves (Bentonville), Kristina Costello (Bentonville), Addie, Alivia, & Lili Bockholt, Nathan & Jessica Green, Sarah and Abigail Butcher, Taylor, Allison & Rhett Moore (Bella Vista).

Those on our prayer list: Jerry Snyder will have heart cath on May 19th. Maddie Sebree will have shoulder surgery on May 12th. Curt LaPorte was hospitalized with a blood clot. Cindy Johnson lost her sister Rhonda Browning. Bob Boynton continues to struggle with his health. Keep Lauryn and Jonathan Blansett in your prayers as well. Continue to remember and pray for Doug Klingman, Eleah Porter, Georgine Caylor, Steve & Karen Ashcraft, Pat Musson, Beth Lemmons, our missionaries, our military and police, our president and our country.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: baking powder, baking soda, tuna, Miracle Whip, tea bags, and liquid dish soap. Our May Food Pantry: cookies/cake/brownie mixes, cooking oil, ravioli, beefaroni, jelly, Spaghetti-O's, honey, and instant potatoes.

Hope in the heart puts a smile on the face. 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
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
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

LORD'S DAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	7:00 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

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MINISTERS

Amazed or Offended?

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?" (Mark 6:1-2)

People were amazed by Jesus. They were amazed and astonished at the signs he performed. Think about what we have seen just up to this point in Mark's account of the life of Jesus. He had cast out demons, healed Peter's mother-in-law, which led to everyone in that city bringing him people with various diseases to heal (Mark 1:21-34). He had cleansed a leper, healed a paralytic and a man with a withered hand, calmed a storm, cast out more demons, healed a woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years, and raised a little girl from the dead. Who wouldn't be amazed by this?!

People were amazed at his teaching. The people in the synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 1:21), large crowds gathered to hear him teach (Mark 2:1-3; 4:1-2), and the people gathered in the synagogue in Nazareth, all were amazed by his teaching.

It is interesting to see how quickly being amazed by Jesus turned into being offended by him. Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. (Mark 6:3) He seems to have offended a lot of folks, but not because he was rude or hateful or mean-spirited. People were offended by him because he didn't act the way they thought he should.

The people in Nazareth that day were offended because he seemed to speak with



Perspective

authority. They were amazed at the hometown boy who participated in the synagogue worship, but his claims that he was the Messiah, the one of whom the prophets had spoken, that was crossing the line.

The Pharisees and other religious leaders of his day were amazed by the mighty works done by Jesus. When he established himself as the authoritative interpreter of the Law and corrected their faulty understanding, that was too much. They were offended.

It is interesting that those who were offended by Jesus, even though it may have been for different reasons, came to a common way of dealing with him. They wanted rid of him.

Some things never change. We find people today who are offended by Jesus. They may be amazed by the things they see in his miracles that are recorded for us, but they are quite offended by the demands he makes. They want the Jesus that heals, cleanses, and restores, but the Jesus that makes moral and ethical demands is offensive.

Just like then, the trouble today comes from our attempts to make Jesus behave the way in which we think he should. Often we would like to remake Jesus in our image and when he doesn't conform, or doesn't fit in our mold, we get offended. We need to remember that Jesus isn't our mascot or our sidekick. He is not an accessory that we can pull out and wear around so that others may think more highly of us. He is not an object that can be used to draw us toward or away from a particular political party or social issue. He is our Lord and Master.

He has the authority to determine what is right and what is wrong. He has the ability to heal, restore, and cleanse us. He is also the one who can remake us into his image, not the other way around. He still has the power to amaze us. I hope we are continually amazed at the difference he continues to make in our lives. I hope we are still amazed at the depth and persistence of his love for us. I hope we are still amazed at his absolute power and authority that demands our absolute allegiance to him as Lord and God.

The power he has to transform our lives when we surrender to him can and does still amaze people. It will very likely also cause offense to some; not because we are rude, hateful, or mean-spirited, but because we under the authority of Jesus and because of that we do not act the way others think we should. The choice, however, is ours. Will we continue to be amazed or offended by Jesus?

-JEFF GRISHAM

How we see things is important. For example, the word "love" might mean, to a grammarian, simply a combination of the 12th, 19th, 13th and 22nd letters in our alphabet; the phrase "I love you" might be nothing more than subject, verb and object. But does our grammarian really understand love? One who loves apple pie might declare his "love" for pastry, but does he really understand love? But "I love you" said to spouse, children, or parents means something much greater, and "For God so loved the world" means something even greater still. What love means to us, then, all depends upon our perspective. In fact, we can say that true religion is all a matter of perspective. What is our perspective on:

God? Some of us view Him as a crisis management tool, as a rabbit's foot redeemer, or as a genie in a bottle. We never think much about God and our relationship to Him until a crisis comes. Then we sit up straight. We walk church aisles. But when the storm is past, we place Him back into the bottle 'til next time. In his book *Your God Is Too Small*, J. B. Phillips writes of a God-In-A-Box. Our culture has confined God to the church building. Some do allow Him to regulate one day out of seven - we wouldn't miss church for anything - but we keep Him in the box and don't allow Him to have control of our business, our family, our television or internet browser. Mr. Phillips also points out that we have a problem with what he calls a Second-Hand God, whom we have heard about from family, friends and film, but of whom we have no first-hand knowledge. What is our perspective on God? Do we know Him first hand?

Jesus? Do we have a scriptural perspective of the Son of God? The Bible teaches that:

Jesus is Savior. Jesus in Hebrew is "Joshua" which means, "Jehovah is salvation, God is Savior." Peter declared to the Sanhedrin, "There is salvation in no other: For there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." We each need a Savior more than anything else. Do we see Jesus as this Savior?

Jesus is the Christ. The Greek is "Christos" which means "the Anointed One" or "Messiah." Faithful Jews looked forward to Messiah and wanted desperately for Him to come. Do we look forward to Jesus in our life? Some of us hate to see Him coming! He is life-changing. He is disturbing. Most Jews missed the Christ because they presumed Him to be something other than what He was. How do we see Him?

Jesus is Lord. The Greek is "Kurios." Jesus is Master, the Supreme Controller. Does our perspective of Jesus include control? Is He the Lord, Master, King of our life? Some see Jesus as only a good man. If that is so, if Jesus is merely human, then He has no real authority. His name deserves to be placed only alongside contemporary humanitarians (Gandhi, Schweitzer, Mother Teresa), no higher and no lower. But if He is God, then we must view Him as Lord of life. God help us to be like Thomas, ever declaring, "My Lord and my God!"

THE CHURCH? I know you are thinking, "he could have left this one out." But how we see the church is important. Most people today view the church as something unnecessary, a hangover from religious tradition. But Scripture tells us that the church is the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the household (family) of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, the forgiven and the saved. If the church is the body of the saved, how can we be saved outside it? If it is the bride of Christ, how can we be married to Him outside it? If it is the kingdom of God, how can we be His people outside it? If the church is the family of God, how can we be His children outside it? We can have no part of Christ without being part of the church of Christ.

Perspective. How we view things is important. May we each continue to expand our perspective of God, Christ, and church. But we must understand that it is not just a wider or politically correct view we are striving for, but a Biblical view. Amen?... Amen!

-RANDALL CASELMAN

From *Lifelines* May 12, 2004

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/15/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Roger Arnold	Song Leader	Sammy McCain
Greeters	Chris Johnson, Gary McCool	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Randall Hunt
		Closing Prayer	Harold Phillips
Nursery Workers			Bobette York, Shannon Hubanks

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Chad Dobbs	Song Leader	Mark Bagwell
Greeters	John Bowman, Mike Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Kirk Franklin
		Closing Prayer	Mike Spencer
Nursery Workers	Robin Kinder, Brenda Branstetter	Van Driver	Mark/Wilma Bagwell

May Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator	Mark Tucker	Streaming Coordinator	Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator	Marquis Elliott