

Family & Friends..... June 29, 2022

Mark Your Calendars for our Vacation Bible School

July 17th - 20th

6:30 - 8:30 each evening with classes
for all ages.

Theme: Fruit of the Spirit
Come Join Us!!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:22-24)

Welcome Barb Hedrick to our church family!! Her address is 9 Hebrides, Bella Vista, 72715.

We always welcome our visitors: Dick and Debbie Fromm (Midlothian, TX), Craig & Patti Bertschy (Hiwasse), Gary Oliveira (Centerton), Greg Woodruff (Bentonville), Hershel & Sylvia Ward, Nathanael & Jessica Green, Genesis and Micah Green (BV).

Those on our prayer list: Howard Hurst had knee surgery on Monday. Sheila Reese has a mass at the base of her skull, and they are consulting with a neurosurgeon. Monica Klingman's sister, Penny Huskey, is undergoing tests for abdominal pain. Robbie Arnold is recovering from knee surgery. Continue to pray for the family if James Maunu. Pray for friends of Cammy Jo McCain: Beth Lemmons who has stage 4 bone cancer and Alison Stephen who has breast cancer. Continue to remember Mike Lacey, Jerry Snyder, Loiselle Tyler, the Green family, Bob and Pat Musson, Mike Martin, Nina Verkler, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Children's Home List: Picante sauce, Pop Tarts, black-eyed peas, juice, kid's shampoo. Food Pantry List: Relish, ketchup, baked beans, fruit cups, marshmallows, applesauce, and all types of pasta.

Do everything for the glory of God. 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

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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Bella Vista

God's Eternal Word

"Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans. If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery. I will never forget your commandments, for by them you give me life. I am yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments. Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind on your laws. Even perfection has its limits, but your commands have no limit." Psalm 119:89-96

I have been reading the book Campbell & Controversy: The Debates of Alexander Campbell (Bill J. Humble, College Press, 1986). A debate between Alexander Campbell and Robert Owen took place in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 13-21, 1829. Robert Owen was a noted skeptic of the day and claimed that all religions were equally false whether Christian, Muslim, or Hindu. In a challenge published in several papers in New Orleans, Louisiana in January 1828, Owen stated, "I propose to prove, as I have already attempted to do in my lectures, that all the religions of the world have been founded on the ignorance of mankind; that they are directly opposed to the never changing laws of our nature; that they have been and are the real source of vice, disunion and misery of every description..."

According to many reports on the debate, it was civil and both men conducted themselves as gentlemen. However, Owen never really debated. He never answered any of Campbell's arguments. He contented himself with going over what he called his Twelve Laws, to the point that the audience was often amused when he began the same "lecture" again.

WITNESSES



It struck me as I was reading today that this debate took place 193 years ago. As I read, I saw footnotes noting the various newspapers and journals that reported on the debate. There was the Western Monthly Review, Free Enquirer, Christian Baptist, Christian Messenger, Memoirs of Alexander Campbell, The Life of Robert Owen. There was also a book written by Frances Trollope, Domestic Manners of the Americans (New York, 1927). Also, there was a book of the debate itself, Debate On the Evidences of Christianity; Containing an Examination of the "Social System," and of All the Systems of Scepticism of Ancient and Modern Times (2 Vols., Bethany, VA, 1829).

I have no doubt that this debate took place. There were various opinions of it expressed by various ones, but no one denies that it took place in Cincinnati in 1829. This makes me think about the attacks against the Bible in our day. Many claim that our text is not reliable. It is interesting to note that Julius Caesar's books written from 100 to 44 B.C. are not disputed. Yet, the earliest fragments or copies of his writings date to A.D. 900, and there are only 10 manuscripts available. Homer's Iliad was written around 900 B.C. The earliest copies of it date to 400 B. C. and there are 643 copies. No one disputes the authenticity of The Iliad. Plato's writings date 427 to 347 B. C. The earliest copies date back to A. D. 900. There are only 7 manuscripts of his writings. No one doubts that Plato lived, taught, and wrote his books.

The New Testament Books were written from A. D. 40 to 100. The earliest copies or fragments date to A. D. 125. There are more than 24,000 manuscripts. Yet, we hear people refer to the Bible as that "old book" as they raise a skeptical eye.

Can we trust the Bible, or is it just an old, outdated book? Based on the evidence of manuscripts, it appears that the Bible is at least as reliable as Plato, Homer, and Caesar, if not more reliable. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). God's eternal word still stands firm in both the created world and in the inspired Scriptures. We would do well to take heed to it.

-L. SCOTT GAGE
S. Hill Church of Christ
Fayetteville, AR

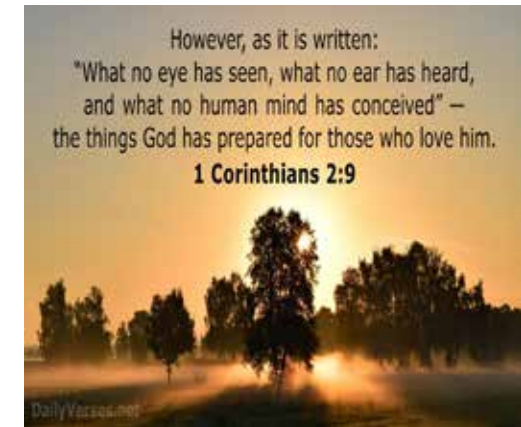
Our Imagination

For those who know me, you know that this has been a really good week. Not because it has been a little bit cooler, not because it has been particularly productive, but it has been a really good week because our grandson is staying with us. I had forgotten how much energy a four-year-old has, and he certainly keeps us moving. One of the other things that I had forgotten, which constantly impresses me, is his imagination. So far this week (and it's just Tuesday) he and I have been dinosaurs and every member of the Paw Patrol. Now, I am certain that one day his imagination will begin to fade and reality will take over. That's normal. While it is a bit sad to lose some of that great trait possessed by our children, it is also somewhat good because reality is our friend.

As we take a look at Scripture, and in particular the Gospels, we see the results of denying reality. In them, Jesus is constantly surrounded by people who imagined a different sort of Messiah. The Jewish leadership of Jesus' day could not get their minds around a Messiah that didn't see things exactly the way they did. Surely, this rabbi about who was the focus of Messianic rumors would be someone who kept the Sabbath the correct way. Yet Jesus heals on the Sabbath. His disciples pluck heads of grain and eat them, yet Jesus doesn't reprimand them. He hasn't studied in the right rabbinic schools. He wasn't from the right place. He didn't seem to recognize that they were are religiously correct as they imagined they were. Even his own disciples couldn't imagine a Messiah that would be crucified by the Romans. In Mark 8 when Jesus tells his disciples that he is heading to Jerusalem to his crucifixion, Peter began to rebuke him (Mark 8:31-32).

This didn't end after the resurrection and ascension. Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth says, "For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) It appears that during Paul's day there were those who could not get their minds around a crucified Messiah, yet that is exactly who we follow.

We still see the struggle with the issues of who we imagine Jesus to be and who he actually is. Humanity still tries to fit Jesus into its own imagination of who he is or how he might react to the events of the day or which side of the political aisle he would be found.



However, as it is written:
"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived" —
the things God has prepared for those who love him.
1 Corinthians 2:9

We need to be reminded that reality is our friend. We may imagine that Jesus would never demand the things he clearly demands in his teaching. We may imagine that he agrees with us on every issue of the day. Imagining won't make that so. We need to see Jesus for who he really is, the King, the Messiah, and Lord, and respond to him accordingly. Doing this can allow us to have the future for ourselves that he wants for us; a future that we can scarcely imagine (1 Corinthians 2:9).

-JEFF GRISHAM

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/3/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Aaron Sloan	Song Leader	Sammy McCain
Greeters	Chris Johnson, Gary McCool	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Randall Hunt
Closing Prayer.....		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers	Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Welden		

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Mike Spencer	Song Leader	Marquis Elliott
Greeters	Jack Johnson, Chris Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Chad Dobbs
Closing Prayer.....		Don Butcher	
Nursery Workers	Muriel McSweeney, Abby McSweeney	Van Driver	Jim Branstetter

July Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator	Mike York	Streaming Coordinator	James Beaty
Audio Coordinator	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator	Aaron Bagwell