

Family & Friends..... August 11, 2021

Most of the time when we study the history of a lot of our beloved hymns, we find they were inspired by tragic events or sorrows that came upon the people who wrote them. Annie S. Hawks wrote the hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour," at a time when everything was going well in her life. She was busy at home doing her house cleaning one day, when she was suddenly filled with a nearness to her Master by a powerful inspiration of what she later described as a compelling need to fully rely on God in every aspect of her life. She began to wonder how anyone could live without Him, either in joy or in pain. She stopped what she was doing and wrote four beautiful verses of this hymn. "I Need Thee Every Hour" has touched and given comfort to many people over the years. It was only after the death of Annie's husband that she fully understood the comforting power in the words which she had been able to give to others "in my hour of sweet serenity and peace," she said, when she wrote these four verses. When tragedy strikes our lives, we find it easy to draw near to one another and to God. When sorrows come upon us, or troubles fill our days, we seek and find the comfort and nearness of our Savior. We should feel that same closeness when we are happy and everything is going our way. We need to take time to reflect on God's goodness and count our blessings. Annie S. Hawks 1836 to 1918. To God Be the Glory!

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in loving kindness to all who call upon You. Psalm 86:5

Those on our prayer list: Delores Haley's son, Leonard has the Covid virus. Phil Ward had a partial knee replacement on Tuesday, August 10th. Chris O'Neal has a malignant tumor on one of his kidneys. They are waiting to see the surgeon to schedule the removal of the tumor. Josh Methany's father has been diagnosed with Covid. Jon Horton, our son, has Covid. Mary Montgomery asks for prayers as she deals with health issues. Judith Carmical is doing well, and is not scheduled for another infusion until August 24th. Continue to remember and pray also for Donovan Harris, Jenny Avery, Jude Holthaus, Pat Musson, Robbie Arnold, Rebecca Hedges, Hilda Jones, Lynn Barnica, Andrew Albers, Mike Lacey, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for Covid and those who have it.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: gravy mix, salmon, taco sauce, jellies, cookie mix, and toothbrushes. Food Pantry for August: cake mixes, frosting, breakfast muffin mixes, applesauce, fruit cups, and Ravioli.

If Jesus needed to pray, how can we do less? 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 Robert Horton
Randall Hunt Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Selwyn Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

LORD'S DAY
Early Worship 8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

EWEDNESDAY
Ladies' Class 9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

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Bella Vista

What Will We Become?

"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 ESV)

There are few passages of Scripture that I find more disturbing or down right frightening than this one. As Bible students we are familiar with what is in store for people who live in open rebellion to God. We see the results of refusing to be obedient and submitting to the commandments of God. In this instance, however, Jesus seems to be speaking of people who believe that they have been obedient, who believe they are on the correct side, only to realize that they are not. Is this possible? Jesus seems to think it is. So how do we know? Can we know?

I believe we can. I believe that God wants us to know and to live confidently in the knowledge that we are His people. I believe that knowing and resting in the fact that we belong to Him and have real hope and a real future is part of the abundant life that Jesus came to make possible. But this passage from Matthew 7 can still be haunting. Here we see people who claim to have done great things (prophesy, cast out demons, and do many might works), yet are lost. Is there hope for us? Can we be sure?

Jesus gives us the answer to how it is we can be certain. He says it is the one(s) who does the will of the Father who enter the Kingdom. God's will appears to be that we become holy people, fully embracing and living up to the His image in which we were created.

MEMBERS



A Better Way To Live

What God wanted from Adam and Eve was for them to trust Him to take care of them, to follow His lead, and to partner with Him in expanding the Garden (Genesis 1:26-31). What God wanted from Israel was a holy nation to live in such a way as to introduce Him to the nations around them (Exodus 19:1-6). God's will for us is that we come to know Him, trust Him, follow His lead, and become His holy people so that He can be made known to the world around us (Romans 8:18-30). It appears that those to whom Jesus refers in Matthew chapter 7 did some great things, but missed the most important thing.

It's not only about what we do, it is really about what we are becoming. Being found in Jesus, in His Kingdom, is not just about doing great things. It is about who we are becoming along the way. It is about being formed into the image of Jesus in the every day things. It is about looking more like Him. It is about acting and reacting the way He did. It is about being focused on doing the will of the Father the way He was.

We accomplish this by being disciplined and focused on the right things. A little earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made this statement:

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
(Matthew 7:13-14 ESV)*

In other words, we will not become the person individually or the church that God desires by accident. Many will enter the wide gate because it is easy. We can find the wide gate without even trying. The narrow gate and the hard way take focus and discipline. It takes our attention to follow the steps of Jesus as we navigate life. It means that we spend consistent time getting to know Jesus. It means that we watch and learn from Him how to interact with all different types of people in various situations. It means that we realize His love and mercy toward us and extend that love and mercy to others so that they may come to know and follow Him with us.

God has made great promises to us. He has demonstrated His desire to be with us over and over, as well as the fact that He can be trusted to keep His promises. He wants us to have an abundant life marked by a deep and abiding trust in Him. We can have this, but not without effort on our part. To have this takes time, discipline, and practice. It takes realizing when we've strayed off the path and running back to Him for help and direction. It takes focus and intentionality to become what He desires that we become. Will we do it?

-JEFF GRISHAM

Scripture records many victories for God's people. Consider these scriptures on victorious living: *I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly...They are in the world, but not of the world...We do not wage war as the world does... Therefore, put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... For everyone born of God overcomes the world... This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* Go with me to the banks of the Jordan, as Joshua and the Israelites face the task of taking Jericho. What can we learn about living victoriously?

Listen to God. Upon finding himself in conversation with the commander of the army of the Lord, *Joshua fell down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (Joshua 5:14)* Victory can only be ours when we are willing to listen to God's voice through His Word. When life tumbles in, where do we go for comfort? Jesus tells us in John 14: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me... My Peace I leave you... My peace I give you.. My peace is not like that of the world... So... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* We must know that victorious living does not come from the world, but from our willingness to listen to God.

Living victoriously has two parts. This angel told Joshua, *God has given you Jericho.* God's grace gift to Joshua and the Israelites was the city of Jericho. But then, he proceeds to tell Joshua what he must do to conquer the city. Our spiritual victory also has two parts. *It is by grace you have been saved, through faith.* Victorious living is a grace gift from God, but to claim it we must live by faith. God has promised us a better way to live: He promises forgiveness of our sins, rest from our labors; His presence for the journey; peace for our troubled hearts; power and provision for the task before us; and salvation for our souls. He promises to treat us as a Father treats His children. He promises to work all things out to our good, to our benefit, to our betterment. Yes, grace and faith are the roads to victory.

The good life comes to those who serve others. Rahab gained the victory because she hid the spies. She knew she was not placed in this world to be served, but to serve. The reason we are here and not in heaven is to serve others. *I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited...*

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me... If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple...He will not lose his reward. Rahab and Jesus teach us that a better way to live is through genuine service to others.

Victorious living demands we control our lusts. *Keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking them.* One translation says, *stay away from their idols, so that you will not covet them to your destruction.* In the very next chapter (7) we see what happens when we covet the things of this world. Achan's family was destroyed because of his desire for things. James tells us that sin occurs when we are drawn away and enticed by our own lust, by our own evil desires.

Anticipate the victory. Israel expected the victory because they had God's word on it. *I have fought the fight... run the race... finished the course... kept the faith... And I know there is a crown of righteousness awaiting me. But not for me only, but for all those who love His coming.* Scripture says that faith's hope does not disappoint us. Biblical hope is more than just wishing for something; it is an anticipation of blessings, the reward that God has promised. Living victoriously is knowing that we will receive God's promised reward.

Indeed, there is a better life before us all: when we listen to God; accept His grace gifts; trust Him enough to be obedient; when we are willing to serve others; control our desires; while anticipating His promised blessings.

-RANDALL CASELMAN
From Lifelines June 2006

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/8/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Randall Hunt Song Leader Alex Thompson
Greeters Gary McCool/David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Harold Phillips
Closing Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
Nursery Workers Patsy McCool, Jennifer Stephens

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Mike Spencer Song Leader Sammy McCain
Greeters Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson Communion Scripture & Prayer Ray Reiss
Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
Nursery Workers Jamie Fulgham, Nan Cope Van Driver Mark Bagwell

August Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator James Beaty
Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott