

**Family & Friends..... August 31, 2022**

The last days of Summer and the first days of Fall! The month of September will arrive this week and Labor Day on the 5th. Congress passed an act on June 28th, 1894, making the first Monday of each year in September a legal holiday. It is the celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. Labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. We also have Patriot Day on the 11th to remember and honor those who were killed on September 11th. The Harvest Moon reaches its peak illumination on Saturday September 10th, at 5:58 A.M. National Grandparents Day is observed on the 11th. It's also apple picking time in September and a good time to eat Fried Green Tomatoes. Monday the 12th is National Encouragement Day and I challenge us all to reach out that day and encourage someone we know who needs it and keep it going! It will make us all feel better! To God Be The Glory!

*Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.  
Luke 24:45*

We are always blessed with our visitors: Doug & Diane Wheeler (Norman, Oklahoma), Teresa Williams (Vilonia), Brenda Treadwell (Seligman, MO), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Kole Kasischke (Stella, MO), Steve & Kris Benton, Steve & Lael Ellison, Nathanael & Jessica Green, and Jared Olmstead. (all from BV) Abigail Butcher and Jacob McCoy

A big welcome to our newest members, Gary & Karen Oliveira, who placed their membership with us Sunday. We love you!

Those on our prayer list: Pat Musson went home on Tuesday under home care. Michael Hale was taken to Mercy hospital on Saturday with blood pressure problems. Nancy Cash will have surgery on September 12th to have a melanoma removed. Continue to remember Phil Ward in the loss of his sister, Berneda Fay Powers, and his nephew, David. Phil's daughter-in-law, Cindy, also needs our prayers after hip surgery. Pray for Timothy Deen who suffered a head injury last week. Continue to remember and pray for Brian Steward, Christine Hall, Sheila Reese, Penny Huskey, Bob & Vicky Douthit, Charles & Glenda Jones, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Those items needed for Children's Home: Disinfecting wipes, paper plates, liquid dish soap, and trash bags. Our Food Pantry: beans (dry or canned) canned vegetables, rice, peanut butter, jelly & honey, oil (canola, avocado, and vegetable).

God guides us through the rapids of change. 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  
Perry 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

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

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**Bella Vista**

**Opportunity Knocks**

In chapter 16, verses 19 through 31 of his gospel, Luke records for us one of the many parables of Jesus: The Rich Man and Lazarus. This particular parable has captured the imagination of many and has been used to talk about the fates of the righteous and the wicked in the life to come. It is, perhaps, not as popular or well known as some of the other parables that Jesus told, and it is relatively easy to see why. Instead of a parable that points to the love, grace, and mercy of God (i.e. The Prodigal Son), this parable deals with the consequences of our actions and the finality of judgment.

There are several interesting things about this particular parable. One is that Jesus gives no explanation of this teaching. Another is that it leaves us with questions with which to wrestle. Is being rich and comfortable a sin? Is being poor inherently righteous? Does this parable illustrate what happens immediately after we die? Can those on either side of the "great chasm that has been fixed" witness the fate of one another? All of these are valid and interesting questions, yet may not be the point of the parable.

The parable begins with Jesus describing the rich man "who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day." (Luke 16:19) Then Jesus introduces us to Lazarus, "a poor man covered with sores who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table." (Luke 16:20-21) This poor, pitiful-looking fellow was at the rich man's gate. We wonder if the rich man was shocked the first time he saw Lazarus sitting there. We can imagine the rich man seeing this beggar every day. Every time he left his house he couldn't help but see him. He probably heard his cries for help and relief, or at least he did at first. Maybe poor old Lazarus had been there long enough that the rich man didn't even notice him any more. We certainly get the impression that the rich man paid no attention to the

**MINISTERS**



problems facing his destitute fellow man; he seemed to just stroll right past.

Jesus then tells of the great reversal of fortunes for these two individuals. The rich man dies and finds himself in torment, while Lazarus is found seated next to Abraham in paradise. When the rich man learns that relief for himself is no longer possible, he pleads on behalf of his five brothers. He wants them to escape the torment that he is suffering. It is in the response to his request that I believe we find the point of the parable.

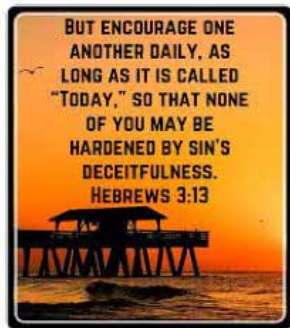
But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" (Luke 16:29-31)

As we think about this particular parable, I believe we can see that it deals with what we do with the opportunities God puts in front of us. Each and every day we have opportunities to love and serve. Each and every day we have the chance to make a difference in the world around us. We have the opportunity to bring some light into a person's life, or to contribute to the darkness in which they find themselves. Maybe it is the beggar, the homeless, a fellow human being who has been kicked around by life. Perhaps it is a coworker, or schoolmate who is in the middle of a rough time and needs someone to encourage them or help out in some way. It might be a family member, or a brother or sister in Christ who needs to hear, "I love you" or "I forgive you" or "I'm sorry. Please, forgive me."

Whatever the situation, we have the opportunity each and every day to be more like Jesus, or more like the world. God places us in contact with others, and in that contact we have the opportunity to be a blessing and a source of hope, or to just walk right past.

We have the opportunity to listen to Moses and the Prophets who point to the One who rose from the dead, and to model our lives accordingly. The opportunity is there. Will we take advantage of it?

-JEFF GRISHAM



## Riches & Poverty

*"One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing;  
another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth"*  
(Proverbs 13: 7).

What a difficult thing it is not to measure our lives by worldly standards! The Living Bible's paraphrase of the above verse reads, "Some rich people are poor, and some poor people have great wealth!"

The Bible does not condemn wealth and possessions per se; but it says volumes about the attitude toward wealth and the responsibility of wealth. Paul told Timothy that God "gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). He also warns Timothy in this same chapter that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (V.10). It is a temptation for any man who handles money to fall in love with it. But a man's life must be measured by something more than "the abundance of things which he possesses" (Luke 12:15). The psalmist warned, "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them."

To the Corinthians Paul wrote, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Rich in money and possessions? No! Rich spiritually! In Ephesians, chapter one, Paul speaks of "the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding" (Vs.7-8). Is Paul talking about houses? Barns? Gold? Silver? Material possessions? No! The "riches of God's grace" includes forgiveness, redemption, hope, power and the Holy Spirit. The riches of eternal, spiritual blessings! Henry Ward Beecher once wrote, "No man can tell whether he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has." The spiritual verities insure and develop a man into what he needs to be and was meant to be.

The suffering and persecution of the Christians at Smyrna reduced them to poverty. Jesus said to them, "I know your afflictions and your poverty; yet you are rich" (Revelation 2:9). Their faith and dedication had made them rich spiritually. What a contrast between the church in Smyrna and the church in Laodicea! Smyrna was poverty-stricken when it came to material things, but rich before God. Laodicea was very rich in material things, but spiritually bankrupt before God.

Jesus said to these Christians at Laodicea, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" (Revelation 3:17). Trench, the noted Greek lexicographer, commented, "There are both poor rich-men, and rich poor-men in God's sight." Again, the spiritual must always have the priority over material things.

Rudyard Kipling, while giving advice in a commencement address to graduates against an over-concern for wealth, position, and glory, said, "Someday you will meet a man who cares for none of these things and then you will know how poor you are!"

Paul asks us, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7) Every blessing, even material, comes from God. We don't really own a thing; it all belongs to God. We are just stewards of it all for a short time. So, enjoy what material things God has placed in your keeping. Use it properly! But realize it is only temporary; it will pass away. Spiritual riches abide forever; they are eternal. Be rich before God!

*"Man cannot live by bread alone,  
This has been proven o'er and o'er.  
Yet still men try to satisfy  
The inner life with earthly store."*

-CHARLES CASH  
1938 - 2018

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 9/4/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Randall Hunt    Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
Greeters ..... Gary McCool, Joe Hott    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Bill Alumbaugh  
Closing Prayer ..... Dallas Dobbs  
Nursery Workers ..... Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Cory Roberts    Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
Greeters ..... Howard Hurst, Don Cope    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mitchell Whittington  
Closing Prayer ..... Perry Johnson  
Nursery Workers ..... Cammy Jo McCain, Debbie Martin    Van Driver ..... Jim Branstetter

#### September Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mark Tucker    Streaming Coordinator ..... Aaron Sloan  
Audio Coordinator ..... Jim Caylor    Video Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson