

**Family & Friends..... September 21, 2022**

Autumn officially starts this week on September 22nd. Astro-nomically, the sun will be directly over the equator that day as the Earth's tilt begins to point the Northern Hemisphere away from the sun. The equinox occurs at the same moment world-wide. Days become shorter than nights as the Sun continues to rise later and nightfall arrives earlier. The Harvest Moon each September will rise around sunset for several nights in a row. It gives farmers extra light for them to finish their harvest before the killing frosts. The angle of the Moon's orbit and the tilt of the Earth line up and cause the Moon to rise only about 20 to 30 minutes later each night for several nights. In many places around the world, autumn is marked by the slow, beautiful change of green foliage to vibrant reds, oranges, yellows, and purples. So, get your favorite mug out and enjoy some hot apple cider and the beauty of the new Fall Season! God is good, To God Be the Glory!

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest. Matthew 9:38*

We love our visitors: Joshua Martin (Crane Hill, AL), Jeremiah & Judge Herman (Fort Scott, KS), Robert & Teresa Williams (Vilonia), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Steve & Lael Ellison, Carolyn Brown, and Nathanael Green. (BV)

We welcome Greg Woodruff to our membership. Please make sure to meet and get to know him.

Those on our prayer list: Lynn Barnica, Roy's dad, is waiting on results from his PET scan. Continue to remember the family of Elfieda Stice in her passing. Continue to pray for Susan Duffy, Jennifer Oxford, Nancy Cash, Bob & Pat Musson, Becky Donceel, Charles & Glenda Jones, The Reeves Family, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Cory had a great lesson for us Sunday morning services. He is starting a new ministry for college students called Eagles for Christ. He needs the help from our congregation in many ways. Let Cory know how you can help!

The baby shower for Abby & Parker Willis, and their soon to arrive twin daughters, was a fantastic shower with lots of gifts and guests. The ladies who gave this nice shower for them are Tori Hunt, Staci Grisham, Kaci White, Melissa Dobbs, Alana Tucker, Ashley Spruiell, Muriel McSweeny and Nan Cope. Thank you, ladies! Debra Lewis made the beautiful cake!

Items for Children's Home: Cereal, Spam, Cake mix & icing, juice and trash bags. Food Pantry: Tuna & Chicken Helpers, Instant Potatoes, Taco Seasoning, Gravy mixes, Chicken & Beef broths.

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**

<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)	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

## 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 Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

## MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 206  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Bentonville, AR  
72712

# Bella Vista

## Extending an Invitation

Luke 19:1-10 contains an incredibly well known narrative in the ministry of Jesus. It has been a staple of children's Bible classes and Vacation Bible School for generations. Many of us who are far removed from being in those classes can still remember the song about Zacchaeus, the Wee Little Man. But, just like the other narratives of the ministry of Jesus, it is far more than just a nice little story.

During his ministry, Jesus drew great crowds. No matter the motives, whether they came seeking healing, or to hear his teaching, or to see if there might be reason to accuse him of some wrong doing, a lot of people came to see Jesus. There was a sense of excitement. We might compare it to people today coming out to see a celebrity or star athlete who is coming to town.

Jesus came to Jericho, and true to form, people came out to see him. One of those who had to see him was Zacchaeus. He wanted to see Jesus. Maybe he had heard that Jesus was considered a friend of people in his position. As a tax collector, Zacchaeus was not a popular guy. He wasn't just any tax collector, he was a *chief* tax collector. The title given to him here seems to indicate that he had some superiority to the rank and file tax collectors. So, since folks hated the regular tax collectors, we would assume that they viewed the chief tax collectors in even less favorable light. Maybe he wanted to hear this new rabbi. Maybe he just wanted to see what all the fuss was about. Whatever the reason, he wanted to see Jesus.

He was at a bit of a disadvantage when it came to accomplishing his task. He was short. It was not going to be easy for him to see Jesus. After all, there probably weren't a lot of the folks in Jericho who would make room for him to get to the front of the crowd. He did the only thing he knew to do. He climbed a tree. That wouldn't be a very dignified thing for a wealthy, powerful man to do, but it was his only option.

# MEMBER



## In Debt

When Jesus saw him, he called him down out of the tree and invited himself to the home of this despised man. Imagine for just a moment what must have gone through the mind of Zacchaeus. Not only was he able to see Jesus, he was also able to host this famous teacher in his home. Imagine the joy he must have felt.

Not everyone was happy about this turn of events, however. Luke writes that when the crowd saw this, they all grumbled (Luke 19:7). No one seemed to think that Jesus being the guest of a sinner was a good idea. The crowd seemed upset that Jesus would spend time with the wrong sort of people. Jesus didn't seem to mind the criticism of the crowd. Zacchaeus, however, seemed to realize exactly what was so special about this teacher. He knew the change that he needed to make and repented, which included restitution to those he had wronged.

There is great comfort in this narrative. Reading it reminds us that there is no one beyond hope, no one beyond redemption. We may have really made a mess of things in our lives. Our life choices and attitudes that we hold may have moved us away from Jesus and from his people, yet redemption and forgiveness is available. Each of us has been in the shoes of Zacchaeus. Our desires, the focus of our life, may have become disordered. The good news of Jesus is that change can happen. If we have gotten things out of order, we can change. Jesus sees us and still wants us to be with him, to be called his people and change is possible.

There is also a great challenge in this narrative. It reminds us that God's grace, the invitation of Jesus is open for everyone. That includes people that we may not like. The crowd that day was upset that Jesus would spend time with someone they viewed as a traitor and an enemy. He wasn't like them. He didn't share their values. He had hurt them and cheated them, yet Jesus welcomed him. This narrative reminds us of the mission of Jesus, the mission into which each of us is called. *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (Luke 19:10) The lost often includes people who don't share our values. That group often includes people who are more concerned with looking out for themselves than for the people around them. It includes those whose lives are disordered and even sinful. We are called to welcome them, to introduce them to Jesus, and to receive them into the family of God's people, remembering that each of us are only included in the people of God because of his great grace and love. May God continue to bless us as we extend this invitation to those around us.

-JEFF GRISHAM

In the credit business they call it "instant credit" when it is really "instant debt." It is so easy and convenient to use a plastic card to just spend and spend with little thought of how much debt is being accumulated, or how one will ever pay for it. Credit card debt puts so many households in serious financial trouble. Remember, when your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall! Before credit cards, we always knew how broke we were!

During the American Revolution, George Washington and his Continental Army came to their bitterly cold winter camp at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in the winter of 1877-78. They were half-starved, dispirited, utterly destitute, with little or no food and almost no supplies. Many of the 12,000 men had no adequate footwear. Washington appealed to the governor of Pennsylvania for help. Jacob DeHaven, a wealthy businessman who lived near Valley Forge, a staunch believer in the revolutionary cause, heard about Washington's appeal for help and loaned him \$50,000.00 in gold and \$400,000.00 in supplies. Washington's army survived the winter, but, after the war DeHaven was never repaid. Several years ago his descendants tried to collect the debt. They claimed that the loan, compounded at 6% interest, then amounted to \$141.6 billion. How could you ever repay such a debt? Without DeHaven's help, what would have happened to the cause of freedom?

There is a debt all of us owe that we can never repay! It is the price that God the Father and Christ the Son paid to free us from sin and guilt. Peter wrote: "Inasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:18-19) What a beautiful, meaningful passage! Redeemed! Bought back! "You are not your own. For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The Psalmist asked, "How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12) What a question for all of us to ponder! How can I repay the Lord? We can never, never repay fully the debt we owe to God! But we can begin to repay with:

Our Love and Gratitude. We are told by Jesus to love the Lord your God "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30) In other words, love with every fiber of your being! The apostle John

informs us, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. "(1 John 5:3) We love Him because "He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) We like reciprocal relationships. This is the greatest reciprocal relationship of all. What a natural, logical response our response should be. In the words of an old hymn: "Loving Him who first loved me." Paul proclaimed, "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15) Christ was by far the greatest gift ever given!

Our Faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6) Naturally, we must believe in God, who He is, what He does, what He says! We owe Him that; He expects that! What a man believes is probably the most important thing about him; because what he believes will determine what he does. We begin to pay our debt to God by believing in Him and trusting Him completely. That's what the Lord is looking for from us, an undivided faith and loyalty, an undivided allegiance!

Our Obedience. "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Hebrews 5:8-9) That's simple and plain enough, isn't it? Jesus Himself said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) Again, "If anyone loves me, he will keep My word." (John 14:23) An emphatic, undeniable truth from the lips of Jesus!

We can never pay off our debt to God fully! But when we do our best, God delights in us and His marvelous grace will take care of the balance. Love, believe, trust and obey!

-CHARLES CASH (1938 - 2018)

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 9/25/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Bill Alumbaugh      Song Leader ..... Sammy McCain  
Greeters ..... Gary McCool, Joe Hott      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Harold Phillips  
Closing Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
Nursery Workers ..... Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jerry Orr      Song Leader ..... Marquis Elliott  
Greeters ..... Howard Hurst, Don Cope      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Bryan Busbee  
Closing Prayer ..... Don Butcher  
Nursery Workers ..... Shannon Mitchell, Robin Spencer      Van Driver ..... Phillip Strickhausen

#### September Worship Coordinators

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