

Family & Friends..... August 16, 2023

“Be With Me, Lord,” is a hymn written by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, a great, prolific hymn-text author in 1935. The music for this hymn was composed by Lloyd Otis Sanderson. They had never met before he wrote it, but they often corresponded with each other by mail. Sanderson one night had come up with the music for a song but was at a loss for words for it. Eight days later he received a letter from Chisholm with a poem he had written one night as the words came to mind. It turned out the words to the poem matched with Sanderson’s music exactly and the rest is history of this beautiful prayer hymn. What they didn’t know a the time was that they both composed their works on the same night. We all have burdens of life that we cannot bear alone at times. The Lord tells us to cast them on Him. We should look to Him for strength in bearing the burdens of life.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

We love our visitors: Chuck & Diane Christiano (Racine, WI), Emery & Jerri Harmon (Logan, UT), Kapten & Ashley Kasischke (Rocky Comfort, MO), Kole Kasischke (Stella, MO), Bill & Barb Ballard (Stratford, OK), Curtis & Kym Snyder (Fayetteville), Jeremy, Avery, Bailey, & Ashley Beauchamp (Maumelle), Alyce Johanson (Centerton), Grant Dodson (Bentonville), Abigail Butcher, George & Debbie Howie, Chris & Karrie O’Neal and Samantha (all from BV), Hannah Coalson and Corbin Mabry.

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families who have recently lost loved ones: Phyllis Archer in the loss of John, and also the family of Mary Louise Harris. Both John and Mary Louise are former members we loved and will miss. Remember Peggy Bertschy in the loss of her sister. Continue to remember and pray for Eugenia Garrison, Amy Rooney, Cameron Thorn, June Jadwin, Lynn Barnica, Mike & Grace Martin and their daughter, our missionaries, those on Maui who have lost family members, friends, homes, and jobs to the recent fires.

Children’s Home list: Spam, chicken noodle soup, spinach, snacks, peaches, and cleaning supplies. Food Pantry: Mac and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, snacks for school children, Pop Tarts, and Goldfish crackers.

Daily prayers lessen daily worries. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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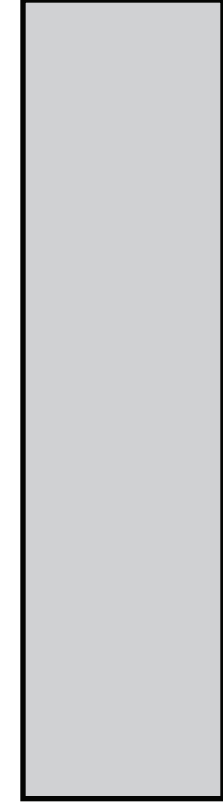
Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525



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



Jesus and the Law

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20 ESV)

I wonder if we can really appreciate the shock that must have gone through the crowd as Jesus makes the statement about the scribes and Pharisees. These guys are the elite. They are the ones who know about the Law. They are the ones that seem to know what it means to be the people of God. For many in this crowd they probably represent an unreachable goal. I know they are our favorite villains of the Gospels, but to this crowd that Jesus addresses here, they are people of great worth, people who seem to have it all together. If our righteousness has to exceed theirs, is there any hope?

LIFELINES



As shocked as that crowd was by the final statement in this passage, the first one may equally shock many of us. Didn't Jesus come to do away with the Law and all of its requirements? Aren't we living in the age of grace and not the Law? We may think of Paul from places like Romans 3:20.

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Or, what he writes in Galatians 2:15-16.

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

We look at passages like this and think, "See, Paul knows we don't need to keep the Law. It is grace through faith, not by law keeping." Then we listen to Jesus say he didn't come to do away with the Law. Which one is it? If we will pay attention, watch and listen, Jesus will make it clear to us. He said that he came to fulfill, not destroy. He came to show us the purpose of the Law and what that purpose looks like as it is lived. The purpose of the Law is what we need to find. For this we need to take a look at when the Law is given to Israel.

After their release from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, and following God's lead Israel comes to Sinai. In Exodus 19 God reminds them of his deliverance, then says, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you



shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6) Then God proceeds to give them the Law (Exodus 20-23). The Law was meant to form Israel into the people of God. By keeping these commandments, they would be markedly different from the nations around them. They would be formed into humanity as God intended in the beginning.

This is what Jesus will show us. It is not that the Law is irrelevant. It is not that the Law was something that needed to be followed once but not anymore. It is that the purpose of the Law, the purpose of the commands that Jesus gives, is to change us. It is not just about behavior modification, but to change our entire character. The Law is about becoming fully human as God intended from the beginning.



What Jesus will model for us, and what we see in what he will continue to teach throughout his ministry is what this looks like for us. It is a life of faith that trusts completely in God the Father. It is a life that will often put us at odds with the world around us. It is a life that cannot be defeated even by death. It is a life that culminates in living with him face to face. It is the life that we want and that he wants for us.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
Matthew 5:17

-JEFF GRISHAM

Please pray for all our students, parents, teachers, and administrators as the new school year begins.

Back-to-School BLESSINGS
 We're praying for you!

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN

THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.
 - Joshua 1:9

SUNDAY SERVANTS August 20, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Sammy McCain
 Greeters Chad Dobbs, Billy Helms, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Phillip Strickhausen
 Closing Prayer Mike York
 Nursery Workers Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Eric Gibson Song Leader Mike Martin
 Greeters Chad Dobbs, Stan Hankins, Stephen Hunt Communion Scripture & Prayer Hershel Ward
 Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
 Nursery Workers Jennifer Royer, Cheryl Royer Van Driver Mark & Wilma Bagwell

August Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott