

Family & Friends..... April 7th 2021

It is definitely nice to be in the Spring season filled with lots of hope! "Nearer, my God, to Thee." What a beautiful and special hymn. It has been a comfort to men and women of faith for over 150 years. Written by Sarah Fuller Adams 1805-1843. She was an English Poet and wrote hymns. Her only and older sister, Eliza, was a composer of music. Her sister challenged her to write a hymn to go with her preacher's sermon for the text he was using from Genesis 28:10-22. This was the hymn she wrote and her sister set the music to at the time. She wrote the music to "Nearer, My God, to Thee" in 1840. She didn't live long enough to see how very famous this hymn turned out to be. It was used at the funerals of William McKinley, Gerald R. Ford, and Warren G. Harding. It was allegedly the last song the band played on the Titanic before the ship sank. This hymn retells the story of Jacob's dream from Genesis. A simple hymn but one of the most symbolic hymns ever written that has meaningful lyrics and delicate music that creates comfort for those in need, and a look into the Christian faith through music. I really do like it when we sing this hymn at church, it is very comforting to me and I hope to you. To God Be the Glory!

...its top reached to heaven;

and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:12b

We want to give a big welcome to our new members, Joe & Christy Slocum, who placed membership with our congregation Sunday morning! They can be reached by phone at (479) 640-0372 or 659-4679. We welcome them into our church family.

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go to Susan Duffy and family in the loss of her Aunt Bonnie. Please keep the family in your prayers. Please keep Monica & Doug Klingman in your prayers as both of their fathers are having serious health issues. Joe Hott asked for prayers for his brother, Frank, who will be having a series of tests and biopsies. Pray for a good outcome. Robert Horton has a bone infection in his right foot caused from the diabetes. Margaret Wicker is recovering at home from her surgery. Steven Ashcraft is in Africa on his missionary work and needs prayers. Continue to remember and pray for: Amy Bowman's niece, Krista Magness, Ron Beaty, Chuck & Joyce Pippin, Louise Perry, our missionaries, military, our police force, our country and president. Thank you Lord for the COVID-19 vaccines!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: canned salmon and chicken, canola oil, mustard, Jello, Ketchup, disinfecting wipes. For our Food Pantry: tuna, chicken, honey, pasta sauce, Mayo/Miracle Whip and salad dressings.

We worship a God who is greater than our greatest problem.

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

LORD'S DAY		8:15
Early Worship	Bible Class	9:30 AM
Second Worship		10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-640-4943

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Selwyn Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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**What Will
We Do With Jesus**

*"Jesus is standing in Pilate's Hall,
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all;
Harken! What meaneth the sudden call!
What will you do with Jesus?"*

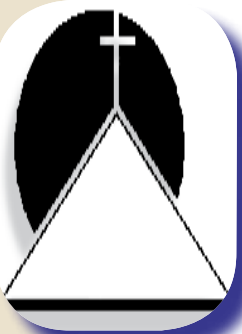
Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea serving from 26 to 36 A.D. Little is known of his life before then. Josephus thought him Italian born, and that he had served faithfully, bravely, courageously in the military before coming to Caesarea. He was the military, financial, and judicial authority in the Providence. His real job in Palestine was one of peace keeping. Because the Jews refused to fight for Rome, the best Rome could hope for was just to keep the peace. This peace keeping responsibility always placed Pilate in Jerusalem on feast days. This played an important role in the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate's governorship was terminated when his troops ruthlessly killed a group of Samaritan worshipers on Mt. Gerizim. He was called to Rome to answer the Samaritan charges against him. Eusebius tells us that Pilate fell into such discord and depression, that he committed suicide.

Jesus was brought to Pilate because the Jews couldn't take a man's life. The Sanhedrin could sentence and punish an individual, but not kill him. That authority rested with Rome and the Roman Procurator, in this case Pilate.

Go with me now to Pilate's Hall. We must take his place. We must decide! Pilate's struggle becomes our struggle, his problem, our problem... "What will we do with Jesus?"

Pilate wanted popularity without principle. It appears that Pilate didn't think Jesus was deserving of death; but like many of us, he was only willing to stand-up for Jesus as long as it didn't cost him too much. Pilate was caught between doing what was right and what was politically correct. Ever been there? Vance Havner wrote: "I'm amazed at the way we equate Christianity with success, popularity, and prosperity. Today we have the idea that Christians are not supposed to run into trouble. We have become diplomats, not soldiers. We specialize in liaison, not loyalty to Jesus. Now days we are expected to get

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along with everything and everybody, including the devil himself."

Pilate wanted talk without testimony. Pilate seemed to have the same attitude that's popular today. We love Jesus, but believe all other religions are good too. If we think all religions are good and have soul

saving power, we really don't understand Jesus Christ: And what His incarnation, death, burial and resurrection is about. This idea of everybody going to heaven, just on different roads is a lie from Satan. Jesus said: *"I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No man comes to the Father except by Me."*

Peter told the Sanhedrin: *"There is no other name given among men under heaven whereby we can be saved."* Bonhoffer once said "Talk without testimony is cheap grace and will not save us."

Guilt without grief. Pilate was guilty, but we never see him grieving, weeping, saying: what have I done? God forgive me! We contrast Pilate with those on Pentecost in Acts chapter two: when they were convinced of who Jesus really was; they cried out in desperate fear, *"Men and brethren what must we do?"*

We struggle with the same problem! We seldom see ourselves as the sinners we are. Sinners in need of forgiveness, perpetual cleansing. You see church: as long as our sins keep us up at night, put a little grey on our temples, burden our heart, prompt us to walk the church aisle; there is hope. What should scare us is: sin that brings no remorse, no regret, no prick of conscience. *"Do not say you have no sins. Confess your faults, acknowledge your sin, and God is just to forgive us all our iniquities"* (1 John 1.8 &-9).

Ritual without reality. Pilate washed his hands before the people. Evidently he thought this ritual would forgive him. It didn't! Listen! There is no ritual that will forgive our sins, unless our heart is in it. Sunday after Sunday we go through the motions, the ritual of worship. But it's not God pleasing worship unless we're engaged, unless we are doing our worship in spirit and truth. Worship and service must be from the heart: *"God is spirit, and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth"* (John 4.24).

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall...

*"Will you evade Him as Pilate tried?
Or will you choose Him, whate'er betide?
Vainly you struggle from Him to hide:
What will you do with Jesus?"*

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Becoming His Disciple

"Then He (Jesus) called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the gospel will save it."

We are part of a large crowd following this new Rabbi Jesus and His disciples walking from Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi. We're hoping to get closer to Him and hear what He's saying to these men. Suddenly, the teacher stops and turns around calling and waving for us to come closer. He looks into the eyes of the crowd speaking, *"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and follow Me."* My friends and I looked at each other confused and puzzled – What does He mean? We are Abraham's children and have never heard this type of teaching. Only the Pharisees had disciples and this man was not a Pharisee. Others have said this teacher is special, but why should we follow Him, and what does He mean *"deny ourselves?"* What is going to happen to us if we follow Him? He has already had disputes with the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. What decision should we make?

Fast forward two thousand years and the question is still being asked. Why should I be a disciple of Jesus Christ and what does it really mean? What does it mean to *"deny myself and follow Him?"* What would happen to us if we followed this Jesus? It sounds as if being a disciple of Jesus Christ is more than just being a follower, learner or student. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is not easy, in fact it seems to be costly.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ has its demands:

He must be first in all things. A true disciple must be willing to be set apart from the world. Our focus must be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. A disciple of Jesus puts Him above all those nearest and dearest to him. *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters cannot be My disciple"* (Luke 14.26).

We are to love our brethren as He did. *"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another"* (John 13.34-35). Loving other brethren begins when assembling together for worship and encouraging each other, (Hebrews 10.25). True disciples, like the first century church, are constantly looking for opportunities to help and encourage other brethren.

Being selfless. Jesus is the ultimate example of selflessness. He stepped out of heaven coming into this world; *"making Himself nothing,"* took upon Himself *"the very nature of a servant"* (Philippians 2.5 & 7). As disciples of Christ, we must *"have the same mind set."* Jesus came not

for His own benefit but for ours. He came to minister to us, die for us: *"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10.45).* We must always put others first, sometimes placing them and their needs over our very own. Biblical humility is not only necessary to enter the kingdom, it is also necessary to be great in the kingdom. *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave"* (Matthew 20.26-27).

Have a Jesus humility. The apostle Paul teaches humility in Colossians 3.12 as having compassionate hearts, showing kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. It literally means *"lowliness of mind."* True Jesus humility is a heart condition, not just an outward character. Jesus said that those who are *"poor in spirit"* would inherit the kingdom of heaven. Being poor in spirit means that only those who admit to complete bankruptcy of spiritual worth will inherit eternal life.

Becoming a servant. As a servant, Jesus was willing to wash the feet of His disciples telling them, *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you"* (John 13.14-15). We must deny ourselves and become a willing servant to others.

Let's check our discipleship by consulting this chart...

Walking in His steps means...

- Depending on the Spirit: John 14.26 – *"He will teach you all things"*
- Interacting in Community: John 13.35 – *"Love one another"*
- Submitting to His Lordship: Luke 6.46 – *"Keep My commandments"*
- Communing with the Father: John 8.31 – *"Hold to My teaching"*
- Investing His resources: Luke 14.33 – *"Giving up everything"*
- Participating in Service: Matthew 20:27-28 – *"Become a servant"*
- Leading People to Christ: John 4.35 – *"The fields are ripe for harvest"*
- Expanding the Kingdom: Matthew 6.33 – *"Seek first His Kingdom"*

—HAROLD AKRIDGE
1945–2019



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/11/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....Lee McCain Prayer & ScriptureHarold Phillips
Communion Scripture & PrayerBill Alumbaugh Greeters/Handouts.....Gary McCool & Ken Rosenbaum

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader.....Chris McSweeney Prayer & ScriptureMike Spencer
Communion Scripture & PrayerKirk Franklin Greeters/Handouts.....Bob Spaw & Chris Johnson

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship CoordinatorMike Lunsford Streaming CoordinatorAaron Sloan
Audio CoordinatorHomer Makinson Video CoordinatorMarquis Elliott