

Family & Friends.....October 31st, 2018

How about those beautiful Fall colors beginning to pop out in our area? Hopefully by this weekend we will see it in full display!

Courage is presented in many ways. We have those who have saved our lives in time of danger or who have fought for our country and our freedom. We call them heroes. We learn a lot about courage from those facing illnesses and death. The courage to say I'm sorry when needed or the courage to forgive. These can be very painful experiences for some, but as Christians we know the right thing to do, and the courage to let it go. Courage to uphold our good moral values and convictions. Courage to say no when needed and yes when its right. The courage to change right from wrong. The courage to ask for help when we need it. Courage to cry, confront fear and pain, and lastly the most important, the courage to trust God and put Him first in our lives. It is easy and comfortable to be worldly, but it is courageous to put God first... "Dear Lord give us the wisdom and courage to conduct our lives in accordance to Your will and Word."

"These things I said to you, so that in Me you may have peace." In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

We are always thankful for our visitors: Don & Leslie Spitzenbergen (Osawatomie, OK), Bob & Teri Ziegler (Stilwell, KS), Holley Skinner (Cassville, MO), Linda Doty (Portland, OR), Jerry Ellis & family (Ash Flat), Susan Cluck (Gravette), Melba Keen (Fayetteville), Brenda, Reese, Calliopy Taylor (Bentonville), John Shepard, Josh & Cynthia Warren Todd (Bella Vista), Robert Schmidt.

Those on our prayer list: Mary & Marlin Kerley are both at Highlands Health, and they request no visitors at this time. Maud Hollo had a surgical procedure Monday the 29th. Doug Klingman continues to be in a lot of pain and doesn't have the strength to walk. Pray for his healing. Becky Pittman is having back and abdominal pain. She is having tests, pray for a good outcome! Sarah Higginbottom, a member at Bentonville church of Christ had skin cancer surgery on her face. Pray for her a complete healing. Janis Thompson requests prayers for her son-in-law Justin Cooper who will have back surgery in Springdale on Wednesday the 31st. Continue to remember and pray for Becky Jones & The Farrar Family in their losses of loved ones. Continue to remember and pray for Sue Gartrell, Marvin Thomson, Ola Harless, Susan Duffy, Nancy Barker, Harold Akridge, Jennifer Oxford, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country & president.

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the silent voice at the end of the day that says "I will try again tomorrow."

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Pancake mix & syrup, applesauce, cream of mushroom and chicken soup, cleaning supplies.

The world needs a peace that passes all understanding.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day.

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	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM
Evening Worship	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	6:45 PM
Bible Class	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089
Don Butcher.....855-1636
Dallas Dobbs271-8609

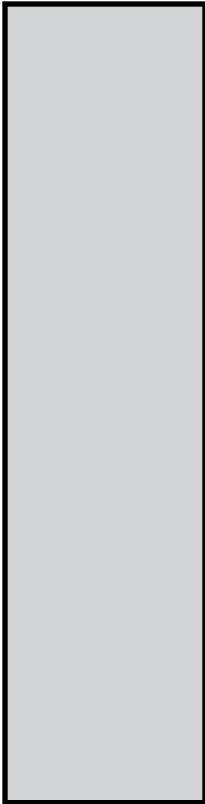
DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135
Selwin Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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



Bella Vista

Red Sea Grace

Sometimes we look at the Old Testament, seeing a much different God than the One we see in the New Testament. It's often said, "The Old is about law, the New about grace. Perhaps we should ask; "Was there grace in the Old Testament? Wasn't Noah saved by grace? Wasn't Abraham given a new homeland by grace? Can't we see grace at work in the life of Joseph? Then we come to the Red Sea crossing; a grace event, a grace event that included salvation through Jesus?"

Hosea 11.1 – *"When Israel was a child, I loved him and out of Egypt I called my son."*

Matthew 2.15 reads – *"And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the Prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called My Son.'"*

Was Jesus present and at work in the Old Testament? Paul says yes when he wrote First Corinthians 10.1-4: *"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ."*

Was grace at work in the Old Testament? Sure! Israel's salvation was through baptism in the cloud and in the sea. Grace brought the east wind drying up a path in the water. Grace walled the water, holding it back as Israel crossed in exodus. Grace allowed the flood to return destroying Pharaoh and his army. Grace upon grace!

This Red Sea Grace is a symbol of our grace crossing, a picture of our salvation through Jesus...

1) We're exiting sin's bondage. It's interesting to note that the Greek word translated "redemption" originally meant "to loose, to release from bondage." You see, our salvation is about being released, escaping, exiting sin's hold on us; freeing us from its eternal consequences.

2) We're delivered by grace. Our sin exodus is by grace through faith. It was Moses who said: *"Stand still and see the deliverance of the Lord."* What could be more clear than "Stand Still!"



MINISTERS

Israel did nothing! The battle belonged to the Lord. Israel couldn't deliver themselves, could not contribute to the salvation God effected except by faith, stepping forward on the dry path; follow where the Christ-rock led.

Likewise, our salvation is "by grace through Faith – Not of works, least any should boast." Israel obeyed and was "baptized in the cloud and in the sea." Here came the Egyptians with no faith, and they drowned. When our faith leads to obedience, it results in deliverance, exodus. Read Hebrews chapter eleven again:

By faith Able offered a more excellent sacrifice.

By faith Enoch walked with God.

By faith Noah built an ark.

By faith Abraham left his homeland.

Genuine Biblical faith includes our obedience, "being a doer of the Word, not hearers only." The devils believe, but they do not obey. James tells us in 2.22 that "faith and actions work together – faith is made complete by obedience."

3) Saved Israel became God's prized possession. "If you obey me fully and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession... You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19.5-6). We too are saved to serve the God who gave Himself to purchase our pardon. Grace doesn't save us, deliver us, exodus us, so we can go on living the way we want. We're to become changed people:

- Instruments of God (Romans 6.13-14 & 16)
- Living sacrifices (Romans 12.1)
- Ambassadors for God (2 Corinthians 5.20),
- A holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, belonging to God (1 Peter 2.9).

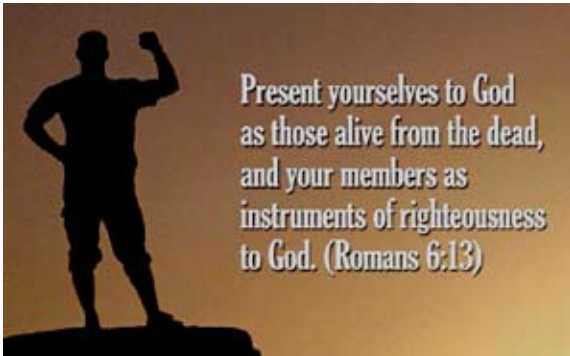
Jesus purchased our pardon, Grace, a free gift of

God, but grace has its demands: It compels us, constrains us, to continue to work out our salvation as God continues to work in our lives – (2 Corinthians 5.14 & Philippians 2.12-13).

Indeed, the Red Sea was a grace event – Our being raised from baptism free from sin, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, to walk a new life is a grace event – Acts 2.38 & Romans 6.4).

Just as Israel celebrated their deliverance, on the east bank of the Red Sea, so should we celebrate our deliverance from sin's bondage. Celebrate and praise our deliverer, being eternally thankful for His grace. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN



Making Deals with God

When "I am in trouble, I cry to the Lord..."

Psalm 120:1

The art of deal making is thousands of years old. Early fourth century Egyptian history records the successful trading of goods and services all through the Mediterranean Region and into Southwest Asia. They were trading their precious resources, gold, papyrus, linen, and grain. Successful traders would have been skilled masters in the art of bartering and bargaining. One of the earliest Bible descriptions of traveling traders is in Genesis 37:25, 28 where Joseph's brothers sell him for twenty shekels of silver to "a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead...and they were on their way to Egypt." The Bible narrative does not describe the intimate details of the deal, but we can expect that some form of bargaining would have taken place.

To bargain means that "an agreement is reached between parties setting what each one shall give, take or perform and receive in a transaction." Many refer to the Biblical example in Genesis 18:1-33, that Abraham was bargaining with God. God is angry with the sin in Sodom and Gomorrah and He tells Abraham He is going to destroy everything and everyone because of it. Abraham shows his compassion for the perceived righteous people of Sodom and Gomorrah, pleading, bargaining with God, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Surely You would not do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike" (Gen. 18:23-25). Abraham continues pleading with God until He agrees on the small number of ten people." (vs. 32) God agrees to a lower number of righteous people as Abraham asks, but if we believe that our omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent God was influenced by Abraham's bargaining skills, we should think again. Bargaining with God is not the same as trying to get a lower price on an item at a garage sale. In his book "Think a Second Time," author Dennis Prager wrote, "I have come to realize that many religious people, of all faiths, believe that they should be able to avoid calamities that afflict the less pious. They believe, in effect, that they can make a deal with God - I'll do what You want so that You do what I want. For countless religious people, this issue is compounded by their belief that God has reneged on a deal with them." Satan, the ultimate liar promotes the idea that man is equal to God, allowing him the natural ability to bargain with the Creator of the universe. At no time has man been equal to God and he never will be.

Have you been guilty of trying to bargain with God? Most attempts to bargain with God come when we see our physical life, or our worldly pleasures in danger. We panic believing we are going to lose everything, and our last hope is to bargain with God. We reach out to God like we are at a car dealership trading in our used car, trying to get more for it than it is worth.

Attempting to bargain with God reveals a low view of Him? In Romans 11:35 Paul writes, "Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" The answer is NO ONE. Since everything is from God and through God, He already owns all things and we can never give Him anything that is not already His. Paul continues in Romans 17:24-28, "People of Athens! "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." There is absolutely no bargaining with God. We have nothing to bargain with.

"The wise man in the storm prays to God, not for safety from danger, but for deliverance from fear. It is the storm within which endangers him, not the storm without." –Ralph Waldo Emerson

—HAROLD AKRIDGE
Bella Vista Church of Christ

African Missions

Ashcrafts and Tuckers are making a mission trip to Africa.

Their financial needs add up to \$8,400.

We have an opportunity to help until November 18th.

Make your check to the church and mark it Africa.

May God Bless Our Mission Giviing.

FOR THE RECORD: 10/28/18

Sunday Class.....	143	Sunday AM Worship.....	231	Sunday PM.....	106
Wednesday.....	129	Offering.....	\$10,484.80	Budget.....	10,718

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 11/4/18

Announcements	Mark Tucker	AM Song Leader	Lance Bowman
Elder's Prayer.....	Tracy Bowman	PM Song Leader	Sammy McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Roger Arnold	PM Closing Prayer.....	Bill Alumbaugh
Greeters.....	Andrew Albers & Greg Fulgham	Server.....	Roy Barnica, Bryan Busbee
Server	Marquis Elliott, Eric Gibson	Server	Billy Helms, Robert Horton
Server	Mike Huffaker, Randall Hunt	Server	Frank James, Gary McCool
Nursery.....	Barbara Roberts & Jennifer Royer	Van Driver.....	Michael Hale
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer.....			Doris Rhodes & Barbara Roberts
Worship Coordinator.....	Harold Phillips	Video Operator	Aaron Bagwell

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 11/7/18

Song Leading.....	Sammy McCain	Speaker.....	Curt LaPorte	Announcements.....	Woody Barker
-------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------------	--------------