

**Family & Friends..... March 7, 2018**

Did you see that beautiful full moon last Friday on the first of the month? It reminded me of the old song "By The Light of the Silvery Moon." It was so bright and shining with a tint of silver, truly a spectacular view. Years ago, Native American Indians gave the first full moon of March the nickname of The Worm Moon. They also gave names to all the other months of the year, if there is a second full moon in a month, it is called a Blue Moon. The first day of Spring will arrive on March 20th, the ground is beginning to thaw and soften, and the worms will start to crawl out, and the Robins will make their appearance. It is also time to tap the great maple trees for their sap, and turn it into syrup. How lucky we are to live on this fantastic earth and enjoy these amazing sights that God has given us. He is definitely our Master Creator. Just imagine if we can see all these amazing things on earth what heaven will be like. Our God is awesome! God is great!

*For our citizenship is in heaven,  
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 3:20*

We recognized our teachers at morning services. We want to thank all our teachers for their service and hard work and their service for our Lord. A big thank you to all our teachers!

We are blessed over and over with our visitors: Mary Montgomery (Wichita, KS), Sarah Scott (Dallas, TX), Finnley Oxford (Neosho, MO), George Bowman (Rogers) Gary, Jackson, Heidi, and Harrison Hodge (Bentonville), Eugenia Garrison, Joy Sawyer, and John Shepard (Bella Vista), Schon Booher, Bill Lessly, Lori Brooke & Caden McCool, Bob & Debbie Whiddon (from Hope Harbor).

Those on our prayer list this week: Our sympathies to Becky Jones in the loss of her mother, Earlene Stegall. Chuck & Joyce Pippin's son, David, had his surgery. It went well, they are still waiting complete pathology. Abby McSweeney had ACL surgery last Friday at Physician's Hospital. Continue to pray for a rapid recovery. Elaine Easterling continues her rehab at Ashley Nursing Center. Remember Glenda Wright's son JD who is away for treatment and pray for his success. Also pray for her nephew Jay Hall. Remember the Bowman family as they review treatment options for Megan, and especially keep Megan in your prayers daily. Continue to remember Ahren Undernehr, Mary Kerley, Lisa Nash, Debbie Helms, Homer Makinson, Charles Branstetter, Robert Horton, Jerry Murphy (we were happy to see her Sunday), pray for Charles and Nancy Cash, (Charles had his first chemo treatment last week), our missionaries, military, police force, our country and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Cereal, spam, juice, trash bags, and soups.

*Prayer is an acknowledgment of our need for God.*

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**

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM
Evening Worship	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	6:45 PM
Bible Class	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089  
Don Butcher.....855-1636  
Dallas Dobbs .....271-8609

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

Randall Caselman.....855-4447  
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135  
Charles Cash.....876-6331  
Selwin Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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**Bella Vista**

**MEMBER**

**It's All About Motive**

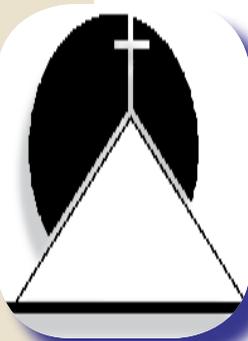
My God and I go in the field together,  
We walk and talk as good friends should and do;  
We clasp our hands, our voices ring with laughter,  
My God and I walk thru the meadow's hue.  
This earth will pass, and with it common trifles,  
But God and I will go unendingly.

We all want it don't we: A walking, talking, hand holding relationship with God? At the same time, we each must agree that such a relationship is impossible without proper motive. In fact, it's all about motive. For instance, we can be Biblically sound in our beliefs and practices, doctrinally correct, have the right answers to every religious question, but if our heart is not right, we can never have a close fellowship, an intimate relationship with God.

- Solomon said: "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." As we think we are.
- Jesus said: "Out of the heart comes the issues of life."
- Paul concluded that faith is a heart issue: "With the heart man believes."
- In the Sermon on the mount, Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," walk with God.
- To the woman at the well, Jesus said: "God wants and walks with those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth." He was speaking of worship with proper motive, with integrity.

I think we will agree that a walking, talking, hand-holding relationship with God has everything to do with motive and integrity.

**First, we must be willing to live changed lives.** It's possible to come to church every Sunday and still not have our lives changed by the Word. We sing the songs, listen to the sermon, partake communion, give generously, pious in prayer, yet still go home to live as we want. Jesus and His teaching, the Word, never penetrates, never impacts our life. We go home to still abuse drugs and alcohol, still mistreat our spouse, ignore or abuse our children, cheat in business, gossip



about our neighbors and the church. This happens every Sunday to thousands of church goers. Hearers who never becoming doers.

**We must become pure in heart.** Religious integrity, heart honesty, is a must. During His personal ministry, the greatest enemy of Jesus were

religionists, the Pharisees. They knew the rules, understood the Law, walked the walk, talked the talk, but had no intimate relationship with God because of a dishonest heart. Jesus addressed their problem in Matthew chapter twenty-three: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness." "You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside, but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean." "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Their heart was not pure, honest! They claimed to love God, but killed His Son.



**We must submit, surrender, both heart and behavior.** Intimacy with God must begin with faith, a faith that leads to total commitment, absolute surrender. The Hebrews' Writer tells us that "Without faith it is impossible to please God." It was Jesus who said: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Jesus is saying that there can be religion without relationship. We can keep all the rules and still have no intimate relationship with the Rule Maker. James says, these are those who "Continue to look into the perfect law of freedom. Not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it." We must be among those who are willing to conform to the heart and ways of Jesus: "Having His mind, heart, His attitude, disposition and behavior." These are those who sing the song:

Have Thine own way Lord, have Thine own way  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after They will.  
While I am waiting yielded and still.

So the question becomes: Do we have a walking, talking, hand-holding relationship with God and His Son, Jesus. Does knowing God and His Son make any real difference in our lives? Our prayer is that it does, Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

## People Need To Be Motivated – Part 2

God's Word furnishes us with "everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3) His revelation is God-breathed and complete, "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:17) God then uses many different methods and approaches to motivate man to recognize Him, surrender to Him and serve Him in order to have an "abundant life." First of all, God did not leave His teaching in the abstract, but reveals His great principles in the light of human conduct throughout the Bible. Secondly, God promises, appeals to our innate sense of right and goodness, pleads with us and even warns us. There are three powerfully motivating factors found in scripture which should lead one to God.

**Fear.** The Christian fears God with a "Godly fear," which is reverence, awe, and respect. This fear, Solomon says, "is the beginning of knowledge" and "the beginning of wisdom." "Since we," as Christians, "are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29)

But there is a place for plain fear, fear of punishment. Being afraid!! To the Athenians Paul said, "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31) J. W. McGarvey wrote the following, "The terrors of that great day, and of the awful fate awaiting those who shall then be condemned constitute the heavy artillery of the gospel, by which the fortification that sin has constructed about the hearts of wicked men must be battered down, ere the tenderer motives of the gospel can be brought to bear. The wicked man must be made afraid to continue in sin, before the goodness of God can lead him to repentance."

In Acts 24 we read, "Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid (trembled KJV) and said, 'That's enough for now.'" (verses 24-25) Felix, former slave, now governor and a very wicked man, was brought to his knees trembling. No doubt, it was Paul's words on the judgment that touched Felix.

John, the apostle of love, wrote, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." Why? "Because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18) Though there is a place for plain old fear, or being afraid, a Christian cannot for long serve God simply out of a fear of punishment. The tenderer motives must move in to control the response to God.

An anonymous author wrote, "They that worship God merely from fear, would worship the Devil too, if he appear."

**The Goodness of God.** "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance. (Romans 2:4 NKJV) There you have it; the "goodness of God" should lead any person to "repentance."

The "goodness of God is new every morning." Our days are literally filled with His goodness and longsuffering. Every "good gift" comes down from the Father.

"I see the wrong that around me lies, I feel the guilt within,  
I hear, with groan and travail cries, The world confess its sin.  
Yet, in the maddening maze of things, And tossed by storm and flood,  
To one fixed trust my spirit clings: I know that God is good!"

What motivation the goodness of God provides for all of us. "God is great, God is good."

**The Love of God.** Love is the supreme virtue, the source of all other virtues. Sooner or later it must become, for the Christian, the supreme motivation in our service to God. "We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) This is the greatest reciprocal relationship this world has ever known. "This is love for God: to obey His commands." (1 John 5:3) Without love, no matter what I do or sacrifice, "I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:3) Paul gave this personal testimony, "Christ's love compels me." (2 Corinthians 5:14)

At some point the goodness of God and our reciprocal love for God must become the prime motivation in living for the Lord, rather than just a matter of fear or necessity.

We would all do well to take our temperature once in a while; do some introspection and check out our motivation.

—CHARLES CASH

### FOR THE RECORD: 2/25/18

Sunday Class.....	144	Sunday AM Worship.....	248	Sunday PM.....	112
Wednesday.....	111	Offering.....	\$12,214.00	Budget.....	10,718

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/11/18

Announcements.....	Harold Akridge	AM Song Leader.....	Lee McCain
Elder's Prayer.....	Don Butcher	PM Song Leader.....	Anthony Christiano
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Kirk Franklin	PM Closing Prayer.....	Don Cope
Greeters.....	Harold Phillips & Don Harless	Server.....	Andrew Albers, Mark Bagwell
Server.....	Ron Beaty, Caleb Cannon	Server.....	Landon Fulgham, Billy Helms
Server.....	Robert Horton, Steve Kinder	Server.....	Bob Musson, Terry Roberts
Nursery.....	Vickie Lunsford & Nan Cope	Van Driver.....	Charles Flanary
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer.....			Cheryl Rosenbaum & Patsy Tarr
Worship Coordinator.....	Dan Moss	Video Operator.....	Richard Myers

### WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 3/14/18

Song Leading.....	Lance Bowman	Speaker.....	Aaron Sloan	Announcements.....	John Bowman
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