

**Family & Friends..... July 28, 2021**

Precious Memories is a hymn that can bring tears to our eyes. It is a beautiful hymn, most often heard at a funeral. Memories of days gone by seem to reflect through our hearts and minds when we hear or sing this hymn. John B. F. Wright wrote the words to Precious Memories. He and his wife lost their young son at about three and a half years of age. His son loved to watch the trains pass by as he stood at their front yard gate. He would wave at the train-men and the passengers and called the trains the "chwains." The workers and the passengers would all wave back to him. One Sunday on January 22nd, 1922, the little boy was stricken with diphtheria and the next day as the sun went down, he passed away. Many days as the train passed by their home, John Wright would notice the train men were watching for his son to wave to them. He would cry for his son and as he would say bathed his pillow in tears. Sometime later as he reflected on his life and fond memories of his childhood with his mother and father he loved, and the tragedy of his son's death, he wrote Precious Memories. John's parents loved music and would sing songs of their youth when he was growing up. God blesses us with our good memories that we have from our youth, church, and the home. Fond memories can bring us comfort and peace. What makes memories unique? We can choose the memories that give us comfort and peace. The ones that lay heavy on our hearts we can remember, but should not dwell on because it will keep us from enjoying life. The sacred memories that are preserved from childhood may be the best education we receive. God is Love!

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, is honorable, is right, is pure, is lovely, is of good repute, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. Philippians 4:8*

Those on our prayer list: Phil Ward will have knee surgery on August 10th. Roy Barnica's father, Lynn, is in Rogers Mercy Hospital. Pray for the Holthaus family, as their two-year-old son Jude recently broke his leg. Remember Maggie Wicker as she recovers from her ankle surgery. Donovan Harris asks for our prayers as he struggles with personal issues. Continue to remember and pray for Heidi Hott, Pat Musson, Robbie Arnold, Jeff and Jennifer Oxford, Rebecca Hedges, Hilda Jones, Mike Lacey, Judith Carmical, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the covid virus.

Next Sunday, August 1st we will have a guest speaker, Cory Spruiell. Cory is candidate for the College/Young Family minister position. He and his wife, Ashley, will be here to meet the congregation.

Items for Children's Home: canned chicken and tuna, cookie mix, taco sauce, pineapple, hand soap. For our Food Pantry for July: Gluten Free Products, Tuna & Chicken Helper, Jell-o, pudding, and brownie mixes.

The God who washed away our sins will also wipe away our tears. 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>EWEDNESDAY</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.....479-640-4943  
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379  
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

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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**Bella Vista**

**MEMORIALS**

**He Just Won't Fit**

If we are familiar with the account of Job, we know Job starts out as a wealthy and influential man who is, according to God's own words, "a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil." (Job 1:8) Then through a series of events, he loses everything: family, possessions, and even his health. From this point on, the vast majority of the book that bears his name is spent wrestling with who God is, and why he does what he does.

Job and his friends believed that they knew all about God and the way in which he runs the world. Their view was a simple one that allowed them to navigate and make sense of the world around them. They believed that if you are a good person with a good relationship with God, then things go your way. If this is true, then the opposite must also be true. If you suffer misfortune it must be because you have sinned and offended God. In other words, Job's wealth and prominence at the beginning of the book was because he was an upright person. So, when severe misfortune came his way it must be due to sin. This worldview seems to work well for them except for one thing: Job had not sinned.

Throughout the book, each of Job's friends makes his case. Job must have sinned. It is the only thing that makes sense. Job refuses to admit guilt that he does not have, all the while wanting an audience with God in order to plead his case and get answers to what these things have happened. This goes on through several cycles of speeches by each one until God appears and speaks in the last five chapters of the book. As God concludes his speech in Job 42, he directs his comments to Job's friends.

*After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." (Job 42:7-8 ESV)*



What they (and we) learn through this ordeal is that they really do not have God figured out. They learn that God is much bigger, much more awesome, much more powerful, and much wiser than they ever dreamed. They tried to fit God in to their ideas of who He is and how He should behave. What they found out was that God doesn't fit in the neat little box they had made for Him. He is far greater. Thank God!

How about us? Do we think we have figured out who God is and how he should behave? Do we have a box into which we try and fit God? There are a lot of lessons in the book of Job, but one I pray we never forget is that God is much bigger than we sometimes think.

**God's love is bigger than we can imagine.** The love of God shines through every page of Scripture from beginning to end. God creates because he loves. God places Adam and Eve in the garden because he loves. God provides a way for reconciliation because he loves. He providentially works in the lives of people throughout centuries because he loves. He sent Jesus to save the world because he loves. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17) The amazing thing is that God loves and demonstrates his love even while we are rebelling against him. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

**God's mercy and grace are bigger than we can imagine.** Often we think of God's grace appearing in the New Testament with the coming of Jesus. Actually, just like his love, God's grace is evident all through the Scriptures. Adam and Eve deserve death, but God provides covering for them and does not immediately destroy them. The rescuing of Noah and his family from the flood is an act of grace. Grace shines through over and over in God's dealings with Israel. We see it in the book of Job when God tells the friends, *"Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly."*

**God's wisdom is greater than we can imagine.** Job and his friends want answers. They want to either confirm what they believe they know, or to find out a different answer to the sufferings of Job. God appears and speaks to them, yet does not give them the answers they seek, but gives them something much more valuable. He demonstrates that his knowledge and wisdom are far above theirs. By doing this he gives them (and us) some much-needed direction. When things happen, when storms and troubles come, or when it seems that everything is against us, he asks us to remember his great love, mercy and grace and to trust his great wisdom to deal with it correctly, even if we do not understand.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## The Great I Am

He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. He is Creator of all and the keeper of Creation. He is the architect of the universe and the manager of all times. He always was, He always is, and He always will be unmoved, unchanged, and undefeated, but never undone.

He was bruised but brought healing. He was pierced but eased pain. He was bound but brought freedom. He was dead but brought life. He was buried but raises us. He reigns and brings peace.

The world cannot understand Him. Armies cannot defeat him, schools cannot fully explain Him, and leaders cannot ignore Him.

Herod could not kill him, the Pharisees could not confuse Him., and the people could not hold Him. Nero could not crush Him. Hitler could not silence Him, the New Age cannot replace Him, and talk show pundits cannot explain Him away.

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord. He is goodness, kindness, gentleness, and God. He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure. His ways are right. His word is eternal; His will unchanging. His mind is on me.

He is my Redeemer. He is my Savior. He is my guide. He is my peace. He is my joy. He is my comfort. He is my Lord. I serve Him because His bond is love. His burden in light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful, the Ancient of Days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, and the sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

If that seems impressive to you, think of this. His goal is a relationship with me! He will never leave me, never forsake me, never mislead me, never forget me, never overlook me, and never cancel my appointment.



When I fall, He lifts me up. When I fail, He forgives. When I am weak, He is strong. When I am lost, He is the way. When I am afraid, He is my courage. When I stumble, He steadies me. When I am hurt, He heals me. When I am broken, He mends me. When I am blind, He leads me. When I am hungry, He feeds me. When I face trials, He is with me. When I face persecution, He shields me. When I face problems, He comforts me. When I face loss, He provides for me. When I face death, He carries me home.

He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God. He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine!

-Author Unknown

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

-Revelation 21:5-7 ESV

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/25/21

#### Early Service (8:15 AM)

Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Chad Dobbs    Song Leader ..... Alex Thompson  
 Greeters..... David Saunders & Gary McCool    Closing Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
 Communion Scripture & Prayers ..... Joe Hott

#### Second Service (10:30 AM)

Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Curt LaPorte    Song Leader ..... Chris McSweeney  
 Greeters..... Howard Hurst & Eric Gibson    Closing Prayer ..... Ray Reiss  
 Communion Scripture & Prayers ..... Don Butcher

#### July Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mike York    Streaming Coordinator ..... James Beaty  
 Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson    Video Coordinator ..... Marquis Elliott