

**Family & Friends.....October 3rd, 2018**

The clouds have been looming over us for several days and we are still hoping for much needed rain. I have been reading about Ravens. They are well known to man and mentioned early in the Bible. The Raven was the first bird Noah sent out after the flood, before the Dove. The prophet, Elijah, was fed by a raven who brought him food morning and evening when God told him to go to the wilderness. They eat anything and can survive in almost any climate and terrain. They are very intelligent and rate up there with the chimpanzees and dolphins. In captivity, ravens can learn to talk and mimic sounds better than parrots. The young even like to make toys and play. They are very social birds and caring to each other, even to different species. They look out and alert one another in danger. God wants us to look out and care for one another also. He wants us to spread the Good News about His Son. God is great! God is good!

*Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made; and he sent out a raven, and it flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth.  
Genesis 8:6,7*

Our visitors make us happy and we hope they will come back: Gary & Martha Dunnam (Grove, OK), Merv & Sharon Fourtnr (El Paso, TX), Becky McCartney (N. Venice, FL), Hubert Miles (Pontotoc, MS), Schuyler & Carrie Davis, Brenda, Reese, and Caliopy Taylor (Bentonville), Andrea Moser, John Shepard, Mark and Alana Underwood (Bella Vista), Austin McCool, Susan Massie, Brody and Sterling Greyson.

Those on our prayer list this week: Patsy Tarr is recovering from her surgery at home. Doug Klingman is recovering from kidney procedure at home. Marvin Thomson is now at Highlands Health for rehab. Marlin & Mary Kerley are both in need of our prayers for their health. We have been asked to pray for the James Buttrem Family, both husband and wife are having serious health problems. We have been asked to pray for the health of Bob Urban, Ken Baker, and Gloria Peron. Remember Susan Duffy in her diagnoses of breast cancer, Glenda Wright in the loss of her son and niece. Continue to pray for Kirk Franklin, baby Lane Duffy, Robbie Arnold, Harold Akridge, David Bradley, David Pippin, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Don't forget the wedding shower for Skyler Cox this Sunday the 7th at 4:00. She's registered at Walmart and Target.

Our annual Fish Fry will be on October 13th here at the building. See the sign up sheet in the foyer.

The Bagwell's Fun-Food-Fellowship Games Group' will meet on October 6th at 4:30. You'll find information on the bulletin board, If you have questions see Mark and Wilma.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Taco sauce, refried beans, Hamburger Helper, Kleenex, and disinfectant wipes.

*Belonging to God brings boundless blessings.*

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 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

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**Bella Vista**

**CHURCH BULLETINS**

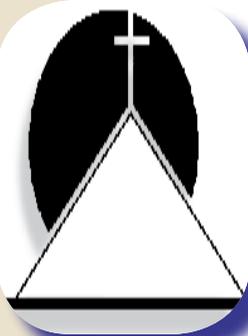
**Salvational Security**

Where is our faith, confidence, and hope today? It's easy to anchor our hope in this world, take refuge in the material, in things that are seen. But the Apostle Paul wrote: *Fix your eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.* We must be careful about placing our confidence, seeking spiritual security, in the things of this world. Indeed, they are temporary.

Well, where do we find this security? Peter gives us the answer: *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them we may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith... Goodness... Knowledge... Self-control... Perseverance... Godliness... Brotherly kindness... Love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2. Peter 1.3-11.)

**How do we make our calling and election sure?**

**First and foremost, through a faith in God.** Faith is a trust and confidence in God, in His Word, in His promises. Jesus said: *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass."* Do we believe this? Really? Do we believe we are saved by grace through faith? Ephesians 2.8. Do we believe that without faith it's impossible to please God? Hebrews 11.6. Do we believe sins are forgiven and that God comes to dwell in the baptized believer? Acts 2.38. The Hebrews Writer reiterates our promise: *"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."*



**Security comes as we walk in moral excellence.** Virtue, moral excellence, goodness, speaks of our living above the world, above our giving in to the desires of the flesh. Moral excellence is living like Jesus, shunning evil, while *“going about doing good!”* Jesus had time for children, He fed the hungry, cared for the sick, comforted the grieving, helped the poor, encouraged the downtrodden and the disenfranchised, taught and exemplified truth, expended himself in service to others. Are we like Him, doing what He did? Are we producing the fruit of Jesus living in us: *“Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?”* We can never be sure of our salvation while we are being flesh led rather than Spirit led. Amen?

**Add to your virtue, knowledge.** The Old Testament Prophet speaks of this truth when he has God saying: *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you”* (Hosea 4.6). Indeed, Spiritual Security is our staying in the Word.

**By abounding in temperance.** Most modern speech translations render this self-control. The Greek carries with it the idea of living under trials and testing in such a manner that will honor and glorify God. Temperance encompasses discipline, self-control, a willingness to say no to sin in all its forms, while saying yes to righteousness. Paul tells us how: *“I must buffet, discipline, control my body daily bring it under subjection, lest after preaching to others, I be found a castaway.”* Confidence, security, being sure of our salvation, is only possible when we’re willing to live a disciplined life. Are we? Really?

**Add patience, perseverance.** *“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised”* (Hebrews 10.35-36). The whole Book of Revelation was written to tell us that God will reward us with the promise of Heaven if we will not give up, but persevere until and unto death. Listen, the Christian life is not a onetime giving ourselves to Jesus, but walking the walk, living the life, daily!!

**Add Godliness.** Webster says: *“Godliness is the conforming one’s life and character, to the character and purpose of God.”* You see, the focus of our world is on doing, on performance. We have robbed our selves of salvational security by trying to merit, earn, our salvation. We're hoping we’re doing enough. No! The New Testament focus is not on doing, but on being, becoming. Becoming like Jesus. Conforming to His image. Having His heart, mind, disposition and behavior. Listen to me – Performance without conviction is a farce. Works without faith is hypocrisy. Paul put it in these words: *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name, in the will, of the Lord.”*

**Brotherly kindness.** Blood is thicker than water, His blood! We are brothers! Blood kin! Read them, there are over one-hundred "one another passages" in the New Testament:



*Love one another. Be kind to one another. Care for one another. Bear one another’s burdens. Prefer one another. Be patient with one another. Submit to one another. Be hospitable to one another. Forgive one another.* Jesus taught that on the Judgment Day, we’ll be reminded that how we treated one another is how we treated Him.

**Abound in love.** The word is agape, a love of the mind more than of the heart. Agape is loving others regardless of their thought and disposition toward us, love that is unconditional. Agape chooses to love because the recipient needs our love. Agape is a love that loves regardless of the behavior of the recipient. Agape is the love that God has for us, that we’re to pass on to others.

Well, I believe Peter is telling us that we can know if we are saved, heaven bound. Amen? How is our Salvational Security? Are there some changes we need to initiate in order to make our calling and election sure? God bless our efforts. Amen!

—RANDALL CASELMAN

## God To The Rescue

It was the Summer Olympics 1992. British athlete, Derek Redmond, was the favorite to win the gold medal. The starter’s gun fired, the athletes burst out of the blocks.

Halfway through the race, Derek was leading, then disaster struck. His hamstring muscle tore and he collapsed on the track. The agony on his tear-streaked face was both physical and mental. Medical attendants ran to assist, Derek waved them away. He came to race and he was going to finish. He got to his feet and started hobbling down the track. The crowd was mesmerized. Officials didn't know what to do.

Then an older man ran onto the track, brushing off officials who tried to stop him. It was Derek's father. "You don't have to do this son," "Yes I do!" Derek replied. "Then we'll finish this race together" came the response from his father.

Arm in arm, agony with every step, tears on daddy's face, Derek and his father continued. Frequently, Derek would bury his face in his father's shoulder. Father's strong arms carried his son both physically and emotionally. Finally, before a standing, applauding, roaring, crowd, Derek Redmond crossed the finish line.

It became the defining moment of the Barcelona Olympics. Derek Redmond didn't win a Medal, but he finished the race in the arms of his father. I think Derek's injury pictures our sin condition. Because of wrong choices, poor decisions, we've failed and fallen on the track unable to finish unless we have help. Our Father saw our condition and came to rescue: *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5.6 & 8).

*“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also of the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2.2). *This is love: not that we love God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”* (1John 4.10). *“In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace”* (Ephesians 1.7).

Indeed, God picks us up off the track by forgiving us, carries us across the finish line to victory – If we will cling to Him through our daily race.

—RANDALL

## Getting Along With People.

- 1) Never miss an opportunity to say a kind or encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise a job well done, no matter who does it.
- 2) When you make a promise, keep it. Just remember don't make too many.
- 3) Hold your tongue. Always say less than you think. Speak softly and persuasively. Remember how you say something, often means more than what you say.
- 4) Show an interest in others – In their pursuits, their work, and their families. Be happy with those who rejoice. Weep with those who mourn. Let everyone feel your regard for him or her as important.
- 5) Be cheerful. Don't depress others by dwelling on your own aches and pain and small disappointments. Remember, everyone has some burdens to carry.

—Submitted by *CHRYL ROYER*

### FOR THE RECORD: 9/30/18

Sunday Class.....	165	Sunday AM Worship.....	247	Sunday PM.....	No Service
Wednesday.....	125	Offering.....	\$10,108	Budget.....	10,718

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/7/18

Announcements.....	Randall Hunt	AM Song Leader.....	Lance Bowman
Elder's Prayer.....	Tracy Bowman	PM Singing Service.....	No service
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Bryan Busbee	PM Closing Prayer.....	No Service
Greeters.....	Roy Barnica & Michael Hale	Server.....	Roger Arnold, Ron Beaty
Server.....	Don Cope, Charles Flanary	Server.....	Don Harless, Richard Myers
Server.....	Aaron Sloan, Mitch Whittington	Server.....	Andrew Albers, John Bowman
Nursery.....	Laruan & Cheryl Rosenbaum	Van Driver.....	Jim Branstetter
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer.....		.....	Karen Ashcraft & Mary Ann Bowman
Worship Coordinator.....	Mark Tucker	Video Operator.....	Chris Johnson

### WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 10/10/18

Song Leading.....	Lance Bowman	Speaker.....	Tracy Bowman	Announcements.....	Curt LaPorte
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