

Family & Friends.....June 27th, 2018

The 4th of July is one of our most significant holidays. With it we celebrate the birth of our great country. Congress formally adopted The Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. We come together each year on this National Holiday to celebrate our patriotism and the most common symbol is the American Flag. Don't forget the National Anthem of the U.S. is the "Star Spangled Banner." Our freedoms were secured at a horrific cost. There was fighting, rivers of bloodshed, deaths, families torn apart, businesses and farms destroyed. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia also became a great symbol to unite and bring people together. It rang out the first public reading of The Declaration of Independence and George Washington's birthday, but cracked and deemed no longer ringable. It's now tapped 13 times each 4th of July in Philadelphia. Remember, "*One Nation Under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice For All.*" Let's keep God in our country and with us always. To God Be The Glory!

We will celebrate the Birthday of our Country with a service Sunday Evening under the pavilion, devotional starts at 6. Gary McCool will cook hamburgers and hotdogs, ladies bring fix'ens, including desserts... Burgers, hotdogs, bread, drinks, chips, and condiments will be furnished.

Inscribed on the Liberty Bell.
*Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land
 Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof.
 Leviticus 25:10*

We're happy to announce our visitors each week: Chad Payne (Columbus, OH), Richard & Linda Sutter (Eagan, MN), Klaus & Linda Rommen-swinkel (Mission Viejo, CA), Le Ann Hernandez and Alice Taylor (Searcy), Autumn Taylor (Judsonia), Elisa Hester (Centerton), George Bowman and Debra Lewis (Rogers), Joe & Kristina Costello (Bentonville), Conner Evans, Andrea Moser, John Shepard, John & Logan Hearnon, Mark & Alana Underwood (Bella Vista), and Andi & Jack Oldham.

Those on our prayer list this week include: Robbie Arnold is awaiting results of biopsies. Mark Tucker's mother, Shirley, had surgery. She'll be going to rehab and needs our prayers as she recovers. Jerri Murphey is having a heart cath on Wednesday, June 27th. She would appreciate our prayers. Charles Branstetter has been hospitalized in Missouri and also needs our prayers. Remember David Bradley, the Reiss' son-in-law who had brain surgery in Springfield Tuesday. Continue to remember Debbie Helms, Ann Clark, Jennifer Oxford, David Pippin, our missionaries, military and police force, our country and president, and for everyone to have a safe 4th of July.

Items needed this week for Fair Haven Children's Home: Cherry pie filling, pickles, paper plates, deodorant, and salad dressings.

America is a tune. It must be sung together.

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

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ELDERS

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

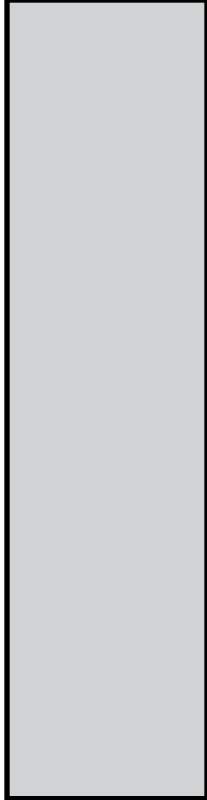
DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

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

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Bella Vista

CHALLENGES

When Life Tumbles In

I understand Francis J. Crosby was born with normal eyesight. But shortly after she turned two, she was taken to a doctor with an eye infection. He mistakenly place a hot mustard poultice on her eyes rendering her blind for life.

Her response to blindness was remarkable:

"Oh what a happy child am I, although I can not see...
 I am resolved that in this world contented I will be.
 How many blessing I enjoy that others don't...
 To weep and sigh because I'm blind I cannot and I won't"

Reminds us of James 1.2-3: "*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*" It's interesting to note that Phillips translates verse two: "*When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends.*"

James goes on to give us some reason we should rejoice in troubles and trials...

1) They enable us to grow in character. Notice the phrase "Trials of various kinds." The Greek is "peirasmos." Zodiates tells us that this word speaks of a test or examination that leads to a good end, as in becoming stronger, purer, strengthened in faith. Here it is, God never tries us, never brings us into trials, to tear us down, but to build us up, to bring us into a closer, more intimate, relationship with Him and His people. Trials are meant to improve character.

2) James tells us that our faith is tested, proved. In the Greek, "Dokimos" is a word that speaks of something tested, proved, made better by adversity. A metal is worth its weight. However, when it is heated, refined, remolded in the fires of the mint, it becomes worth more than its weight. Peter applies this "dokimos" process to us as God's children: "*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus*



Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1.6-7). Trials tests and proves our faith.

3) Trials work toward producing endurance. Strong, in his word studies says that "Hupomone" speaks of the ability to remain cheerful, hopeful, faithful, under pressure. The idea is that we can overcome because we have a hope, a confident expectation of the crown of life if we maintain



a Christ like character, even when life tumbles in. Both Isaiah and Peter speak of this process, and how it worked in the life of Jesus: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth." "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in

His steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.' When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly" (Isaiah 53.7 & 1 Peter 2.21-23). The idea is that everyday trials, troubles have the ability of enhancing our patience and endurance; helping us to persevere in our Christian walk.

So, when life tumbles in, listen to Jesus: "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution... Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2.10).

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not I am with thee, O be not dismayed;
I, I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

God help us to live like we sing Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Adversity introduces a man to himself

CHOICES and CONSEQUENCES

Robert Frost wrote in his beautiful poem, "The Road Not Taken,"
*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made the difference.*

In the beginning, God created a perfect world. In His omnipotence, He gave His ultimate creation, man, this perfect world to live in. He named His human creation Adam and Eve, provided them with everything they needed, and promised them they could stay there forever. They only had to follow one command: "And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:16,17).

Adam and Eve's perfect life included, natural beauty everywhere, a perfect climate where clothes were not necessary, and they had all the food and other necessities to sustain them forever. Then one day a fourth entity entered their garden of perfection, "the serpent." The serpent, Satan who God also created, brought something new – a CHOICE.

The serpent told Eve, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Eve said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent replied to Eve, "You will not certainly die." "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:1-5).

Eve was presented with a simple CHOICE, obey this ONE simple command God gave or choose what the serpent said? Eve's CHOICE was made, she believed Satan. When presented with the same choice, Adam could have chosen differently, but he didn't. He also CHOSE to disobey God.

From the beginning God gave man "FREEWILL" allowing him the freedom to make his own choices, but also receive consequences for the wrong choices. The perfect world on earth was destroyed forever because Adam and Eve used their "FREEWILL" and made the wrong choice. They accepted what Satan said, "if you eat of this fruit you will be like God!" Their decision was simple - choose to obey God or accept Satan. We can envision a man with both hands extended out in front of him palms up, in his left palm is God and his right palm is Satan. He stands weighing each hand, up and down. Which do I choose? He might be saying "eenie, meanie, meinee-moe," or Mickey Mouse - Mickey Mouse, how many nails did it take to build your house?"



By this one CHOICE, resulting in the decision to follow Satan, Adam and Eve received their CONSEQUENCE. God promised them life forever if they obeyed Him or death if they didn't. A very simple CHOICE - believe God or Satan. By their freewill they chose to disobey God and believe that He wouldn't punish them.

One CHOICE, one DECISION, one CONSEQUENCE. Adam and Eve's CHOICE and DECISION not only impacted them but all of mankind forever. God our creator, had no CHOICE but to do what He said He would do if they disobeyed. He evicted them from the garden and the ultimate consequence was that man was contaminated forever by sin. Sin entered the world because of this one CHOICE Adam and Eve made.

Through the history and narrative of creation, man has many questions: Since Adam and Eve were the first they had no examples to know their consequences? Were they innocent victims of Satan? Did they really mean to challenge and break God's commandment? Since they were like babies, why didn't God just overlook this one infraction? God made man in His image, why did He give him freewill? Why would God punish man, His ultimate creation?

To be continued – Consequences for our choices

"Father, I have made many bad choices in my life. My decisions have been no different than Adam and Eve. I have allowed Satan to influence me in one simple, effortless way – I have chosen not to ask Your help first. I have decided that I can make both small and large choices without Your help. This is Satan's trap for me, to think I don't need Your help. I pray that through the Holy Spirit You will give me the strength to come to You first for every choice, small or large. I ask this prayer in Jesus name. Amen

—HAROLD AKRIDGE
Bella vista Church of Christ

FOR THE RECORD: 6/24/18

Sunday Class 146 Sunday AM Worship 252 Sunday PM 129
Wednesday 117 Offering \$9,033.01 Budget 10,718

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/1/18

Announcements Kirk Franklin AM Song Leader Anthony Christiano
Elder's Prayer Don Butcher PM Song Leader Lance Bowman
Communion Scripture & Prayer Mark Tucker PM Closing Prayer Roger Arnold
Greeters Mike Huffaker & Clayton Hufford Server Andrew Albers, James Beaty
Server Bryan Busbee, Tim Duffy Server Eric Gibson, Robert Horton
Server Steve Kinder, Jeff Oxford Server David Saunders, Eddie Waters
Nursery Nina Verkler & Callopy Taylor Van Driver Michael Hale
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer Ola Harless & Muriel McSweeney
Worship Coordinator Harold Phillips Video Operator Aaron Bagwell

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 7/4/18

Song Leading Lance Bowman Speaker Josh Sloan Announcements Bryan Busbee