

**Family & Friends..... October 21, 2020**

What an amazing world we live in! Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second smallest planet in the Solar System, only larger than Mercury. It's often called the "Red Planet" because it resembles the color of blood. Mars has two small moons. Mars is half the size of earth. It would require life support systems to be there. The atmosphere is 95% carbon dioxide. We need to breathe oxygen of course. It is a cold desert world and red in color because of rusty iron in the ground. There are signs of ancient floods on Mars, but now water mostly exists in icy dirt and thin clouds. A day in Mars last 24.6 hours. We have made several missions to Mars, and is the only planet that rovers have been sent to. They drive around, taking pictures and measurements. Sometimes you need binoculars to see the planets, but now is a good time to see Mars without them. Check out your best times on the internet. Something with a little humor is you can fire a gun on Mars, but once shot, the bullet will keep going quite literally, forever, because the universe is traveling faster than the bullet. Astronauts have been known to carry guns into space for protection if they land in a deserted treacherous region. It is not like any gun you will ever see though. Now is a good time to enjoy the Solar System that God has given us to view. To God Be The Glory! Thank you, Lord for Your blessings!

*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
And the firmament shows His handiwork.  
Psalms 19:1*

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies to Jessie Morton in the loss of his wife to Covid-19. Harold Phillips had his Pacemaker surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. Charlene Ward has been moved to a Hospital, in Siloam Springs. Misty Johnson is in ICU at Mercy and very much needs our prayers. Clint White, family member of the Cope's, will have two heart valves replaced in November. Pray for Mark Bagwell's mother, Dorothy. Chris Johnson's mother had a fall last week and was down a good while before being found. Amy Bowman's father, Bill, continues to improve at home. Mike Lacey's cousin, Kristen, a young mother with extensive breast cancer needs our prayers. Continue to remember Phillip King and Jim Branstetter as they recover from their surgeries. Remember and pray for George Bowman. Ava Sailors, Krista Magness, Roy Fanning, David Bradley, Nancy Cash, Jennifer Oxford, Joyce Pippin, Abby McSweeney, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president & cure for Covid19.

Items for Fair Haven Children's Home: juice, applesauce, gravy mix, cream soups, canned chicken, and toilet bowl cleaner.

Items needed for our Food Pantry: sugar, flour, soup, cereal, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, french style green beans, onion crisps, cream of mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned yams, marshmallows, pie crust, pie filling.

*In every desert of trial. God has an oasis of comfort.*

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**

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs .....479-271-8609

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

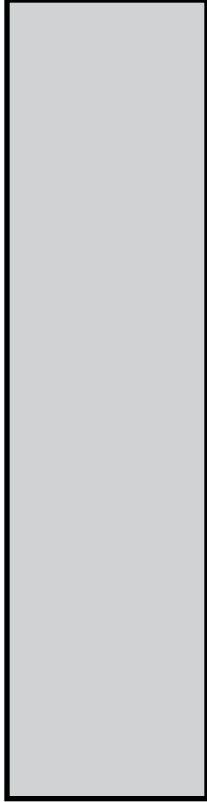
Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447  
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Selwyn Nel ..... Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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<b>LORD'S DAY</b>		8:15
Early Worship	Bible Class	9:30 AM
Second Worship		10:30 AM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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**Bella Vista**

**Torn Curtain Blessings**

*"It was at the sixth hour that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour Jesus cried in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?'—Which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'... At that moment, the Curtain of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the Centurion, who stood in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said; 'surely this man was the Son of God!'"*

Interesting that when Jesus died, God voiced His feelings by tearing the Temple Curtain from top to bottom. Josephus and First Century Rabbinic Literature tell us this curtain hung in front of the Most Holy Place in the Temple. Herod had increased its size to something like 82 feet high and 24 feet wide, measuring a handbreadth in thickness. Think of it five or six inches thick! No human hands could tear this, and if it had been possible, the tear would have started on the floor not eighty-two feet in the air.

Also interesting that the Hebrews' Writer picked up this incident telling us that Jesus entered the Most Holy Place, not a man-made curtain, but heaven to "once for all" put away sin by His own sacrifice. (Hebrews 9.24) It was God who ripped open the curtain; letting us know that His presence was no longer for the High Priest only, but to all men who would come to Him through Jesus and His sacrifice...

**Now we can be forgiven.** *"There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" Romans 8.1-2.*

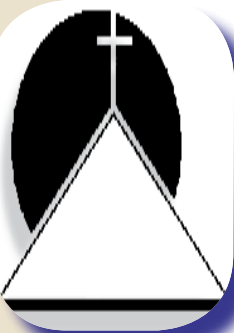
**Now we can be reconciled to God.** *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1.7).*

**Now we are all priests.** *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess... Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4.14-16).*

Praise God that this curtain was God torn! Amen?

—RANDALL

**HEBREW**



# As a Tree Falls, So Shall It Lie

A few years ago I came across an exquisite piece of property in rural Coles County not far from Mattoon that's as lovely as any park one could find. It was at this spot I snapped a photo of a tree lying down upon the ground. As I stood there, I couldn't help but be reminded of the following verse from Solomon. *"If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie"* (Ecclesiastes 11:3 [ESV]).

There's an ancient Chinese proverb that's very similar to this which goes, "As a tree falls, so shall it lie." Since God is the Author of all truth – in fact, Jesus says He is *"the Truth"* in John 14:6 – then it's reasonable to conclude that this proverb is an eternal truth God chose to reveal to mankind because of the invaluable message it brings. You see, the message God wants us to learn in these proverbs is that the choices we make in this life are important because it's those choices which will determine where we will spend eternity. It's a message sharper than any two-edged sword, a message of hope for those who have come to Christ in obedient, saving faith, but a message of doom that should cause any outside of Christ to shudder.

The abode of God is depicted as being in the north throughout Scripture...

- Elihu stated in Job 37:22 [RSV], *"Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with terrible majesty."*
- David also writes in Psalm 48:1-2 [RSV], *"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the Earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King."*
- Finally, we have depicted in Isaiah 14:12-14 [RSV] how Satan sought to take the place of God upon His throne located in the north: *"How you are fallen from Heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to Heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.'" Satan sought to elevate himself first over all the other Angels who are depicted in this passage as the "stars of God" before attempting to usurp the very power of God Whose throne resides in the "far north".*

So the message of Ecclesiastes 11:3 is this: If you are in rebellion when

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad**

you die and fall "to the south," you will remain in rebellion and will be punished through eternity for your rebellion when you fall,

meaning when you die. The converse is also true as well. If you die and fall *"to the north,"* meaning you remained *"faithful unto death"* (Revelation 2:10 [RSV]) to Jesus Christ your Savior, then you will remain in the Presence of God forever. You'll be blessed to receive *"the crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10 [RSV]):

*"Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him"* (James 1:12 [RSV]). Only those faithful souls will be given the "crown of righteousness."

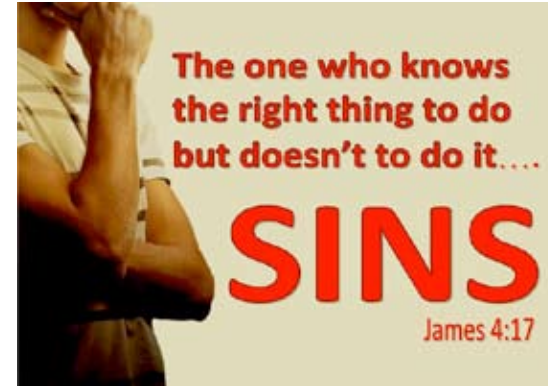
*"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:8 [RSV]).

So which way will you fall, and where will you spend eternity? The choice is yours!

—DAVID R. FERGUSON  
Mentor OH

like about a pound of ham." They would insist that the butcher put the ham on the scale and measure it by the standard, and then they would pay based on how things measured up to the standard.

In order to think clearly about ourselves and the universe we live in, C. S. Lewis states that we must be firmly established on two points: "These, then, are the two points I want to make...



First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it.

These two facts are the

foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in." (*Mere Christianity*, page 7) As we look around the world today, it is obvious that we need to repair our foundation so that we can think clearly and act responsibly.

It might be helpful to us to consider a few passages of scripture that contain this word "ought."

*"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:10-11).

*"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart..."* (Luke 18:1).

*"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet"* (John 13:14).

*"We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up"* (Romans 15:1-2).

*"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil"* (James 4:13-16).

L. SCOTT GAGE  
Fayetteville, AR

## SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/25/20

### EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader ..... Don Butcher Prayer & Scripture ..... Jim Branstetter  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Joe Hott Greeters/Handouts ..... Keith Hubanks & David Saunders

### SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader ..... Lee McCain Prayer & Scripture ..... Don Butcher  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Tom Verkler Greeters/Handouts ..... Howard Hurst, Mike Spencer

### Coordinators (October)

Worship Coordinator ..... Harold Phillips Streaming Coordinator ..... Parker Willis  
Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson Video Coordinator ..... Matt Grisham

## "Ought"

*"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.*

*By this we know that we are in Him.*

*He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

1 John 2:3-6

The word "ought" indicates that there is some standard by which my actions and motives are being judged. Many people do not like this word, and they reject the idea that there is an absolute standard by which we are measured. These same people would be horrified if they went to the local market and the butcher told them what he had cut "looked