



The Book of 2 Samuel opens with a public expression of grief from King David over the deaths of Saul (the jealous king who tried to kill David) and Saul's son, Jonathan (David's closest friend from his youth). David's words of sorrow have been preserved in a poem "The Song of the Bow" (1:19-27). There's one particular refrain in that poem which has lingered in my mind this mid-term election season: "How the mighty have fallen!" (vv. 19, 25, 27). David, in his lament, of course, is speaking of the mighty warriors of Israel—including Saul and Jonathan. Without destroying the original meaning of the text, I believe we can safely apply this statement to our nation. The US, once mighty domestically and globally, has fallen. There are, of course, a multitude of factors which have contributed to our fallen state, particularly over the past couple of years: poor foreign policy decisions, the protection of criminals over citizens, thousands of deaths related to the fentanyl that streams across our southern border, out-of-control federal government spending, the perpetuation of the "woke culture" in every facet of society (education, business, politics, religion), the constant erosion of religious liberties, etc. The greatest contribution to the US's decline is the continuous drift away from biblical Christianity—the linchpin of our foundation. Those who reject the truth that the US was established on Judeo-Christian principles found in the Bible ought to actually read some of the founding documents, the early works/letters of our founding fathers, and sermons of preachers during the colonial period. For example, here's an excerpt from a sermon preached by Rev. Phillips Payson before the Massachusetts House of Representatives on May 27, 1778. "I must not forget to mention religion, both in rulers and people, as of the highest importance to the public. This is the most sacred principle that can dwell in the human breast. It is of the highest

importance to men—the most perfective of the human soul. The truths of the gospel are the most pure, its motives the most noble and animating, and its comforts the most supporting to the mind. The importance of religion to civil society and government is great indeed, as it keeps alive the best sense of moral obligation, a matter of such extensive utility, especially in respect to an oath, which is one of the principle instruments of government. The fear and reverence of God, and the terrors of eternity, are the most powerful restraints upon the minds of men; and hence it is of special importance to a free government, the spirit of which being always friendly to the sacred rights of conscience, it will hold up the gospel as the great rule of faith and practice."<sup>1</sup> The influence of religion (Christianity in particular) on our newly formed nation caught the attention of visiting French diplomat Alexis de Tocqueville, who toured America (1831-32) wrote the following: "America is . . . still the place in the world where the Christian religion has most preserved genuine powers over souls; and nothing shows better how useful and natural to man it is in our day, since the country in which it exercises the greatest empire is at the same time the most enlightened and free."<sup>2</sup> This nation once gained its strength from its relationship with God, the people who trusted His Son as Savior and lived according to His standards and governed according to His will—"How the mighty have fallen!" Unless we once again stand for His truth, follow His will and elect men and women who adhere to biblical values and principles, our nation will continue to weaken. ~ Pastor Randy

<sup>1</sup>Phillips Payson. "Election Sermon," in *The Pulpit of the American Revolution* (Vol. 1), John Wingate Thornton (Forgotten Books: London, 2018), 339.

<sup>2</sup>Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. Harvey C. Mansfield & Delba Winthrop (University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 2000), 278.



The first Wednesday of each month is CARE Night. CARE is an acronym for Christians Actively Reaching Everyone. We have a meal at 6 pm and ministry opportunities at 6:30 pm. This month CARE Night is **November 2nd**.

You are invited to join us for Sunday School each week at 9:45 am. Classes are available Nursery through Senior Adults!!

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE.**



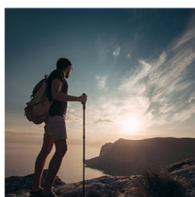
**CHURCH-WIDE FISH FRY  
SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 12TH  
@ 5:00 PM IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**



*Embrace Women's Ministry  
Event Thursday, November  
17th, 6:30 pm @ Kelcey  
Robinson's House.*



**Men's Monthly Meeting  
Saturday, Nov. 19th  
@ 7:00 am in the  
Fellowship Hall**



**"THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN"  
Psalm 37:23-24**

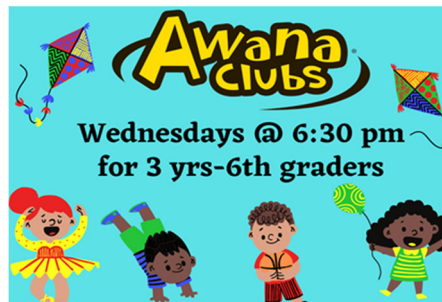
**NC Baptist Men's Worship Rally  
Monday, November 21st**

**Meal @ 6:15pm —Program 7:00—8:30 pm  
Boger City Baptist in Lincolnton**



**A Note From Ashley**

“Psalms 34:19 reads, “The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers them from all.” I thought this verse would be an important reminder for us as we go into the holiday season. Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of this time of year we forget to be thankful for our Lord. This verse is powerful; it reminds us that the Lord does not deliver us from some of our troubles but from all of them. We may not see some of our issues fully resolved until the day we meet Christ in Heaven; but we know that God works everything for our good. Earlier in the chapter David wrote in verses 17 and 18, “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” We aren't given this reminder just once, but twice, that we are delivered from all troubles. And better yet in verse 17 we are told that when the righteous cry out, the Lord hears them. How impactful is that? We are heard and we are taken care of by our Lord. These truths are what make our faith unique. We serve a personal, loving God. Let's marinate on that this month as we walk into a season of thankfulness and celebration. God Bless ~ Ashley



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE:  
THE "MANDY IN THE MORNING" SHOW  
K-6TH GRADE  
NOV. 6TH & 13TH  
@ 4 PM**



**4th—12th  
Grades  
Sundays  
@ 5 pm**







### A Note From Susan

Great is Thy Faithfulness  
Thomas Chisolm (1866 – 1960)

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

The story behind Great is Thy Faithfulness should encourage every Christian who thinks of their life as ordinary. There's no tragic story associated with this hymn. It's just the fruit of a faithful man with a simple faith in a faithful God.

Thomas Chisolm was born in a Kentucky log cabin in 1866. He was converted when he was 27, became a pastor at 36, but had to retire one year later due to poor health. He spent the majority of the rest of his life as a life insurance agent in New Jersey. He died in 1960 at the age of 93. During his life he wrote over 1200 poems.

In 1923, at the age of 57, Thomas Chisolm sent a few of his poems to William Runyan at the Hope Publishing Company. One of them was Great is Thy Faithfulness, based on Lamentations 3:22-23. *(Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.)* Runyan was particularly moved by the poem and sought to set it to a melody that would reflect the response of wonder and gratefulness to God's faithfulness conveyed in the lyrics.

The song quickly became a favorite at the Moody Bible Institute, and later George Beverly Shea sang it at Billy Graham crusades. Now it's known all over the world and has been used to encourage millions of Christians to trust in a faithful God.

The hymn has three verses and a chorus. I encourage you to find a hymnal or use the internet to look up the lyrics. Verse 1 speaks of God's faithfulness revealed in his Word. Verse 2 tells us of God's faithfulness revealed in creation. Verse 3 reminds us of God's faithfulness revealed in our lives.

Whatever challenges, trials, or disappointments you might be facing right now, this hymn reminds us that God's promises are true, that he never changes, that his compassions never fail, and that his faithfulness to us in Christ Jesus is more than good—it's GREAT! God doesn't need incredibly gifted or wildly famous people to proclaim those truths from his Word. Just faithful ones. ~ Susan



### A Note From Pastor Joe

If Thanksgiving is only shown, expressed or given for one month we would be in trouble. I am glad that it is accentuated for the month of November, but I pray that it is given all year long to those we love, our friends, family and for anyone we are thankful for. We need to especially show our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father. According to over 140 scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments we are to be thankful. The following are only a few; 1 Chron. 16:8, Psalm 30:12, Psalm 75:1, Colossians 2:7, and Revelation 7:12. I would encourage all of us to take time during this special season of Thanksgiving to make a list of 25 people or things in our lives. Perhaps people or things that have been a great blessing, encouragement, help, or maybe someone or something that has been "hard on our nerves" or "trying" for us. Make a note and thank the Lord that even in the good and the bad He has taught us and helped us to grow. Give thanks for Romans 8:28. ~ Until Christmas time keep on praising. ~ Pastor Joe



**Weekly Bible study Thursdays at 11 am in the JOY classroom. This is a very special time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We invite all senior adults to join us.**

**ECLM Tuesday, Oct. 11th —8:30 am  
Lunch Following at a local restaurant**



**Choir Practice Sundays  
@ 5:00 pm  
New Members are Welcome!!**



**There will not be any activities at the church on Wednesday, November 23rd. Church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 24th & 25th**