



BARCELONA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dr. Jon M. Stubblefield, Pastor

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June 8, 2020

Dear Church Family:

At the time of his wife's unexpected death, Arthur John Gossip preached his well-known sermon, "When Life Tumbles in—What Then?" This is a relevant, probing question. As we continue to experience the prolonged coronavirus pandemic and wrestle as a nation with social injustice and unrest in our streets, where do we turn for direction and assurance?

When faced with difficult days, we need to turn to the Lord. According to Romans 9-11, Paul wrestled with the disturbing reality that an overwhelming number of the Jewish people had rejected the gospel and refused to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In his struggle to understand this rejection, Paul ultimately focused on worship and affirmed the power and purpose of God. His moving doxology is found in Romans 11:33-36. It reads:

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." These verses are my text for next Sunday's sermon on "The Power and Purpose of God."

We are grateful that a generous church member has given the \$1,500 needed for the electrostatic sprayer we have ordered to disinfect and sanitize large areas. While we are still waiting for the delivery of this important equipment, our supply of masks has come in. Tithes and offerings for the week of June 7 totaled \$14,815. Beyond this, final gifts were received for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes, bringing our total for this important ministry to \$1,710.

In last week's letter, I sent the guidelines for starting worship. The question was asked: "Would you be willing to follow these guidelines if we return for worship in the next few weeks?" The response thus far has been about half "yes" and half "no." The indication is that some of us are ready to gather again, while others do not feel comfortable doing so. In light of this response, I would like to announce that we will begin morning worship at 10:30 on June 28. I am sure we will have a small crowd at the beginning. Please do not feel any pressure to attend if you are not comfortable with this decision. We will continue to provide a website service for your convenience.

The decision to reopen with morning worship is made with the qualification that if COVID 19 cases continue to increase and our Governor and Health Department officials discourage gatherings, we will close again.

Your Pastor,

Jon M. Stubblefield

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By the Cross We Care, One Person at a Time