

Volume 1, Issue 3

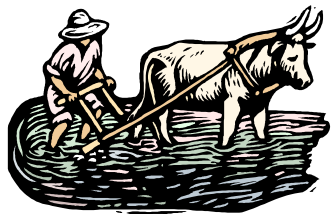
February 10th, 2002

## Limitations of the Old Law

Kevin Cauley

Many misunderstand the scope of authority of the Old Testament. It was misunderstood in the first days of Christianity as well. There are several illustrations given within the New Testament that exemplify the limited authority of the Old Testament. Let's look at a few of those illustrations.

In Acts 15, Peter says that the Old Law was like a "yoke" that one is not able to bear. A yoke is a harness that is put over the shoulder of an oxen or some other beast of burden and used for pulling plows or hauling water or some other bit of manual labor. In contrast, Jesus said that his "yoke" was easy (Matthew 11:30).



According to Peter, the disciples were not to be burdened with this "yoke" any more (Acts 15:10). Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

In Romans 7:1-4, Paul compares the Old Law to a dead husband. While the husband lived, we were required to be joined to that husband. However, now that the husband has died, we are free to be married to a new husband—the law of Christ. Just as a woman whose husband has died is free to remarry again, once the Old Law was nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14) and put to death, we are now free to be joined to a new law—Christ's law—the New Testament.

In Galatians 4:1-6, the Old Law is compared to the tutor of an heir. However, once the heir

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## Kevin's Korner

I stepped outside of my office Tuesday afternoon and received quite a start (I literally jumped back)!



I knew it was coming. I even spoke of it to someone earlier in the day. But the reality of it did not impact upon me until I came face to face with it. SNOW! It is something that I am NOT used to seeing in Texas. I suppose that many here are used to seeing it. It goes to show that one can have knowledge of something, yet still be pleasantly surprised. Being surprised doesn't necessarily, however, mean being unprepared. I had my hat and my overcoat with me so I did not get too "snowy" even though I had to go to Wal-Mart for a few groceries.

I suppose that the second coming of Jesus will catch everyone by a pleasant surprise. Some may be prepared and some may not be prepared. We want all to be prepared! Jesus said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:42). He told the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1. Five brought what oil they had in their lamps. Five brought that plus extra oil. Five ran out and had to leave to get more. The other five were prepared. The bridegroom came while the first five were gone. They were not prepared. They did not enter into the wedding feast. It is OK to be surprised as long as you are prepared! Let us never let down our guard for a moment lest our Lord come and catch us unprepared!

Wednesday morning the snow had covered the ground up to six inches in some places. The boys have had very little experience with snow. So we got them up and took them outside to make a snowman. We got the bottom and the middle done, but our fingers and toes got too cold and we



had to go into the house. We had a most wonderful time together. We were able to finish the snowman at lunch on Thursday, but it soon gave way to the warmer air and before we knew it, we had a headless snowman.

Dale's lesson Wednesday night did a good job of putting the icing on the snow (so to speak). Snow is beautiful and clean and pure when it first falls, but soon it becomes corrupted, like sin can corrupt us. Snow is cold, but we don't have to be. Snow is deep just like the love of God. And snow can be a little frightening, but we can trust in God for all of our worries and concerns of this life. Forgive me Dale if I missed a few things, but I thought your lesson was great!



*(Continued from page 1)*

comes of age, he has no more need for a tutor and stands before the father as full heir and son.

In Galatians 4:21-31, Paul compares the Old Law in an allegory to Hagar and Sarah. He says that the Old Law is like Hagar and the new law is like Sarah. Sarah's son was the son of promise. Hagar's son was not. Just as Sarah cast out the handmaiden from her tent, so also the New Law has cast out the Old Law.

The book of Hebrews, however, makes it extremely clear as to the limited authority of the Old Law. Christ could not have been a high priest unless the Old Law was first taken out of the way (Hebrews 7:14). The Old Law contained a "pattern" of the spiritual things, not the actual spiritual things themselves (Hebrews 9:23). Christ's sacrifice dedicated the actual spiritual things that the Old Law represented and thus paved a new way for man to come before God. This is now the only way to the father (John 14:6).

The Old Covenant, while its authority as a law has ended, is still profitable for us to study. Romans 15:3 says that those things were written for our learning. 1 Corinthians 10:11 says that all of those things happened by example that we may learn from them. Paul in writing to Timothy said that all scripture was inspired of God and profitable (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). We can and MUST learn from the Old Covenant, but its specific commands are no longer binding today. It has accomplished its purpose by leading man to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Christ fulfilled the Old Law when he died on the cross and the curtain to the Holy Place was rent open for all men to enter through his blood (Matthew 27:51). However, unlike the priests who went in and stood and went out, He **sat down** on the right hand of the throne of God forever (Hebrews 10:11, 12).

## By What Authority

Robert Dodson

It is correct to ask, "By what authority do you do these things?" (Matthew 21:23-27). Whatever we do must be done by the authority of Christ (Colossians 3:17). We must not go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6 ASV). Many people say, "There is nothing wrong with this. Where does the Bible say I can't do it?" That is the wrong question. The Bible is not a list of everything we can't do. God has told us what to do. To do anything more or less is wrong (Numbers 22:18-20; 2 John 9).

Sometimes the Bible is very general in giving authority. For example, we are commanded to teach (Matthews 28:19), but we are not given any specific method to use. Therefore, one may use lecture, question/answer, group discussion, etc.

On the other hand the Bible is sometimes very specific in giving authority. For example we are commanded to sing unto God (Ephesians 5:19). Here God specifies the kind of music He wants. Therefore, to play an instrument unto God would be unauthorized. Though the Jews were given such authority (Psalm 150), Christians have no such authority.

It is also important that we recognize the difference between an aid and an addition. Microphones and songbooks aid us in carrying out God's command to sing. Using them, we have still only done what God has commanded. But a musical instrument is an addition to God's command.

Let us be careful not to do anything without authority from Christ! Let us use every means to carry out God's command, but never do any more or less than He has commanded (Revelation 22:18-19).

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"  
(Colossians 3:17).

# “Much Wine”

Kevin Cauley

Many read passages such as Titus 2:3 and say that since it says, “much wine,” that it is OK for one to have a little wine. Some have contrasted the requirements for the eldership (not given to wine, 1 Timothy 3:3) with that of the deacon (1 Timothy 3:8) and concluded that elders are not to have any, but deacons may drink some. Is this a correct understanding of these passages?

First, it is incorrect to assume just because the word “wine” is used in the New Testament that this refers to an intoxicating beverage. The word for “wine” in the Greek language is “oinos.” It can refer to intoxicating beverages, but it can also refer to what we call today, grape juice.

Second, it is incorrect to assume that Christians drank intoxicating beverages as a matter of course. Paul instructed Christians to bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). Peter instructed Christians to “gird up the loins of your mind” (1 Peter 1:13). Drinking intoxicating beverages would prevent one from doing these things.

Third, just because something is specifically forbidden for one class of Christian does not mean that it is allowed for another class. Notice that the elder is not to be a striker. Does this mean that a regular Christian CAN be a striker? It does not. Practicing love precludes one from being a striker; so also practicing sobriety precludes one from drinking intoxicating beverages.

Is there a sense in which we can understand the phrase “much wine” without it referring to alcohol? Yes. Among paganism, the drinking of much wine (regardless of its quality) might have been interpreted as a sacrifice to the god Bacchus. Prohibiting the imbibing of much wine would preclude anyone from coming to this conclusion but would still allow for a moderate consumption of the sweet juice for nutrition.

## Sunday’s Sermons

For February 10th

Morning .....Marriage and Divorce  
Scripture.....Matthew 19:3-9  
Evening .....Qualification of Deacons  
Scripture..... Philippians 1:1

# Where Is God?

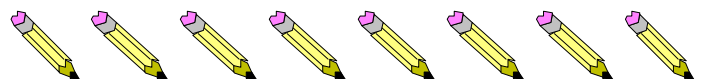
He was just a little boy, on a week's first day.  
He was wandering home from Sunday School,  
and dawdling on the way.  
He scuffed his shoes into the grass; he found a caterpillar.  
He found a fluffy milkweed pod,  
and blew out all the "filler".

A bird's nest in a tree overhead, so wisely placed on high,  
Was just another wonder that caught his eager eye.  
A neighbor watched his zig zag course,  
and hailed him from the lawn,  
Asked him where he'd been that day  
and what was going on.

"I've been to Bible School,"  
he said and turned a piece of sod.  
He picked up a wiggly worm replying, "  
I've learned a lot of God."  
"M'm very fine way," the neighbor said,  
for a boy to spend his time."  
"If you'll tell me where God is,  
I'll give you a brand new dime."



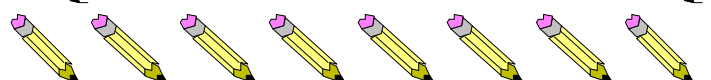
Quick as a flash the answer came!  
Nor were his accents faint.  
"I'll give you a dollar, Mister,  
if you can tell me where God ain't."



## Our Record

Week of February 3rd, 2002

Sunday Class .....	60
Sunday A.M.....	71
Sunday P.M. ....	71
Wednesday .....	45
Contribution.....	\$1490.88



## News, Notes and Prayer List

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Ken Smith, Callie Smith, Art Roberts, Austin and Charlie Cauley, and Oleta Widener.
- Opal Hull had outpatient surgery on her toe Tuesday and is at home.
- Regina Horton (sister of Dena Williams) is awaiting a lung transplant. She is a member of the church in Jonesboro, AR. Please remember her in your prayers.
- Daisy Farmer returned home last Sunday and is in good spirits.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Jessica Lovelady is also in the nursing home in room 307.
- Dillon Hull, grandson of Stan and Reba Stevens, was baptized into Christ this past week. We rejoice with him and his family.
- Our monthly fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday. We will be saying farewell to the Nimmos and giving them a good send off. Please see Debbie Smith for additional information regarding the Nimmos going away.
- The pictorial directory is finished! You may pick up a copy from the box in the back. Much thanks to Brent and Shauna Stevens for putting this together for us.
- There will be a Valentines day party February 16th at Brent and Shawna Steven's house at 6:00 PM. Instead of the traditional valentine card, attendees will receive a bag of candy. Please see Shawna for additional details.
- The youth devotional will be tonight at Bill and Lucille Fort's house in Eureka Springs after the evening services.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Baking Soda.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>		
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	George Eddings	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Ken Smith	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
	Leon Duncan	Clyde Atchley
<b>(assist)</b>	Raymond Kimes	Brent Stevens
	Brandon Foster	Bruce Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	David Nimmo	Bill Fort
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
<b>Scripture:</b>	Glenn Williams	Dale Pinkley
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan
	Rusty Windle	David Nimmo
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Rusty Windle
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Ken Smith	Leon Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Ken Smith

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

**Deacons:** Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Dale Pinkley, Ken Smith, Rusty Windle

**Preacher:** Kevin Cauley .....870-423-6707

## Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship: .....10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail [bvcoc@alltell.net](mailto:bvcoc@alltell.net) to contribute information.

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