



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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Why Give The Invitation?

Kevin Cauley

Many preachers today no longer give the invitation. In fact, one congregation of which I know personally, recently had a preacher who refused to give the invitation. The eldership asked him to give the invitation. They then ordered him to give the invitation. But he would not. He refused in a written letter to the eldership to give the invitation.

The invitation is that final five or ten minutes of a sermon in which the preacher invites anyone who needs to come forward to confess fault, or to become a Christian to do just that. But it is not upon the authority of the preacher—it is upon the authority of the word of God that the invitation is offered.

Jesus gave an invitation in Matthew 11:28-30.

He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." We come to Christ by obedience to His word (Hebrews 5:9).

Peter gave an invitation in Acts 2:40, "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." And there was a response! In verse 41 it says that they that gladly received his word were baptized!

Paul gave the invitation in Acts 17:30,31. He said, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the

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Kevin's Korner

Talk about a change in the weather—whew! Sunday was one of the most beautiful days that I have seen in a long time and then all of the hot air just disappeared—zap! It was gone like a politician finishing a speech. At this point, I could make ice cubes on my lawn faster than I can in my freezer. It is just too cold for this Texas boy!

We mentioned this past Sunday that Paul Stone's daughter was in the hospital with pneumonia. Thankfully, she was released on Sunday morning to go back home and be with her parents. I know that the family appreciates the cards and prayers for their daughter and I know that God appreciates Christians being Christians to all men!

Last Saturday (February 23rd) my family and I went to Withrow Springs State Park. Although the park was not a large park, it was, nonetheless, beautiful.



We had a picnic and let the boys play on the playground area. We were going to go hiking on our own, but we ran into a park ranger and he took us around to a few places and spoke of the park history. It was a most enjoyable time. We also hiked up the War Eagle river for about

half a mile and walked inside a shallow cave where we could hear water running but could not see very much because it was so dark. Next time we are going to bring a flashlight! The facilities at this state park are very good and it is not very far away either (about 30 miles).

I received a call on Tuesday from the Berryville nursing home asking us if we would like to go

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which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." There was a response here as well. In verse 34 we read that certain men clave unto him.

The Spirit and the bride both give the invitation to come and drink of the water of life. We read in Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The very ending of the New Testament contains an invitation! Now, if Jesus, Peter, Paul, John, the Spirit, and the Bride gave an invitation, who am I to say that I am NOT going to give an invitation? The disciple is not above his Master (Matthew 10:24)!



The basic truth of the matter is this. We either believe that people need to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ or we do not. If we do not, then there is no use in giving an invitation. If we do, then we must make every effort with all of our heart, soul, and mind, to appeal to that person who needs to repent. We are finite humans who are limited in knowledge. We just do not know if there is someone listening who needs to respond to the gospel of Jesus. Do you want to gamble with someone's soul by not offering them the opportunity to respond to the invitation? I sure don't.

The invitation of Jesus is basically this. If you are a Christian and you need to publicly repent, then please come forward now and we will pray with you and for you. If you are a Christian and are in need of the prayers of the church for any other reason, then the church stands ready to receive you and pray for you. If you are not a Christian, then you need to become one by hearing the gospel (Matthew 7:24-27), believing it with all your heart (John 20:30,31), repenting of your sin (Luke 24:47), confessing Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16) and being baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:18,19). This is God's invitation. Let's give it!

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there to sing every fifth Sunday of the month. As you may know, we have one fifth Sunday every quarter and the first one will be in March. So, we are going to go there to sing and have a short devotional each fifth Sunday.

I understand that this has been done before, but was stopped because of lack of attendance. Folks, we MUST be about the business of practicing PURE RELIGION! Recall what James had to say about this, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). Who wants to face God on the day of judgment without having practiced pure religion?

Too, we owe all of our older people our respect and honor. They laid the foundations upon which many of us stand today and they deserve our recognition. God recognized this in ancient Israel. In Leviticus 19:32 we read, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD." We read in 1 Peter 5:5 that the younger are to submit to the elder.

We have some members who do a great job of supporting the elderly. However, we ALL need to work at showing them our love and respect. Especially our young people—Austin and I have been visiting the nursing home and they seem glad to see me enough, but when they see Austin, a bright light comes into their eye. They can see hope in our little children. They love to see the little children. So at 1:30 on

April 31st, let's all meet up at the church building, grab some song-books and head down to the nursing home to sing! Bring your kids and families and make it a time for

those older folks to remember. Many of the elderly are not Christians, but it is NEVER too late. Let's all make a concerted effort to be at our first singing at the nursing home on March 31st!



"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15, 16)

Lighthouse in the Ozarks
 Berryville Church of Christ 2002 Youth Rally
Theme: In His Image
 April 26th, 27th, and 28th.

JOIN US!

Be There!

Flying Away on a Sin Wagon (To Hell)

Kevin Cauley

(Editor's note: I wrote this article about a year ago when this song was very popular. I don't know if it is still popular, but the message is still true. God does not tolerate immorality or the love thereof. Romans 1:32).

I don't know if many people listen to "country" music in our congregation. I listen to this music driving home from work and lately there has been a song on the air by the Dixie Chicks called "Sin Wagon." This song glorifies the concept of sin like none other I have heard before. We have all heard songs that glorify specific sins such as fornication or adultery—these are bad enough. But this particular song praises and glorifies the concept of living a life of sin.

In the song, a woman leaves her husband because she does not want to submit to him. The woman subsequently seeks debauchery and profligate extra-marital sex. In the song, the woman asks for forgiveness, but with no intention of repenting. The last chorus of the song, the woman refers to sex as salvation and says that the Lord will have to "take me with my feet draggin'" presumably to heaven. And in the very last line of the song, the woman vociferates, "I'll fly away, on a sin wagon." The words "I'll fly away" are sung to the melody of the well-known hymn. (To verify the lyrics, please refer to this web site: http://lyrics.astraweb.com:2000/display.cgi?dixie_chicks..fly..sin_wagon.)

The very concept of a "sin wagon" filled with debauchery and licentiousness should repulse and nauseate every moral person alive. However, the more deadly thought in this song is that people

can live a life of rancorous sin and expect to go to heaven when they die. This is, however, an old doctrine. Every true Calvinist believes the doctrine of once saved always saved. Perhaps the Dixie Chicks will help every Calvinist realize just how wrong and sinful this doctrine is. The Bible plainly teaches otherwise.

God hates sin (Proverbs 8:13; Isaiah 59:2; Zech.8:17). Satan is the father of all evil (John 8:44). Those who die in sin will earn the wages of sin—spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Sinning is falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. . ." (1 John 3:8). Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34).

Jesus came to the earth to take away sin (John 1:29). He lived a sinless life (Heb.4:15; 1 Pet.2:22; 1 John 3:5). He died on the cross so that we might have forgiveness from our sins (Rom.5:8; Rom.8:3; Heb.9:26). Those who willfully sin against him spit in his face and despise His death (Heb.10:26-28).

The Dixie Chicks and every person who listens to this song will die. It is sad, but **if** they are unrepentant, they will be kindling for the fires of hell (Rev.21:8). "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (1 Corinthians 10:34).

Sentence Sermons

Kind words make good echoes.

The tongue weighs practically nothing,
but few can hold it.

The best way to have the last word
is to apologize.

Sunday's Sermons

For March 3rd

MorningGreat Moral Questions
Scripture..... Titus 2:11, 12
Evening Questions and Answers

Our Record

Week of 1/27

Sunday Class	75
Sunday A.M.....	82
Sunday P.M.	70
Wednesday	63
Contribution.....	\$1484.82

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Maxine Whitely, Oleta Widener, Tiffany Windle.

- Georgia Bonner was admitted to the hospital in Berryville; room 104b.
- Glenn Quigley had some tests this past Friday on his heart. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Jessica Lovelady is also in the nursing home in room 307.
- Edith Mischler is in the Eureka Springs nursing home.
- The men's breakfast will be this coming Saturday. February was a short month and the second Saturday is already here! Please come to this wonderful opportunity for us men to fellowship one another.
- Ladies Bible class will start this coming Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Ladies, be sure to make plans to attend and bring a guest if you can!
- Next week we will have another meeting to discuss our Vacation Bible School. Everyone who wants to be involved is encouraged to attend. Come with theme topics for our VBS.
- After our meeting to discuss VBS next Sunday night we will be mailing out the House to House and Heart to Heart for the month.
- The youth devotional will be tonight at Clay and Wanda Bozarth's house just north of Berryville.
- For the month of March, Clay Bozarth has the announcements and Rusty Windle will be the coordinator for men to serve in the worship. Rusty Windle and Ken Smith will carry communion to the shut-ins.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Flour.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	March 3rd, 2002	March 10th, 2002
Song Leader:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Bill Fort
Scripture:	Clyde Atchley	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
(assist)	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Bruce Foster
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Dale Pinkley	Bob Moore
Lord's Table:	Brent Stevens	Dale Pinkley
	Larry Elliott	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Ken Smith
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Bill Fort	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Clyde Atchley	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

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

Preacher: Kevin Cauley870-423-6707

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 bvccoc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
Berryville Church of Christ
 909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616