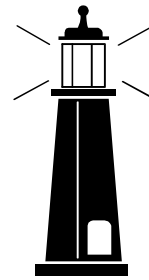




The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 1, Issue 18

May 26th, 2002

The God of Truth

Kevin Cauley

If there were ever one salient truth communicated throughout the pages of the Bible, it is that God always tells the truth and cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). There are certain necessary corollaries to accompany this fact of the Bible. First, it is impossible for God to contradict Himself. Second, God will always keep his promises whether the promise is positive or negative. Third, God cannot be the author of confusion in the religious world today. With this one simple truth and its three corollaries, the denominational world complete shatters.

First, it is utterly impossible for God to contradict Himself (Luke 21:15 NKJV). To even suggest such would be calling God a liar. A contradiction by definition is when two statements are arranged in such a way so that both cannot be true. One statement must be true and the other statement must be false. The statement "Baptism is necessary for salvation" is in contradiction to the statement "Baptism is NOT necessary for salvation." One of these statements is true and one is a LIE. God CANNOT be the author of both statements. The statement "God saves man by faith ONLY" and the statement "God does NOT save man by faith only" are contradictory statements. One is true and one is a LIE. God cannot be the author of both statements. The statements, "God allows disagreement on matters of faith" and "God does not allow disagreement on matters of faith" are contradictory statements. One is true and one is a LIE. God cannot be the author of both statements. However, denominationalism states that men can believe different and contradictory things regarding matters of faith and still make it to heaven. How can this be if God cannot lie? Either the doctrines of denominationalism are wrong or God is a liar (Romans 3:4). Which one is it?

(Continued on page 3)

Kevin's Korner



Over the past several Mondays, I have been golfing, fishing, canoeing, and piloting. You know about my piloting, do you not? It was like the old country brothers said one time when asked what their occupation was. One said he was a wood cutter; the other said he was a pilot. They were then asked why the great divergence in their careers. To which the second brother responded, "there is no great divergence, he cuts the wood and I pile-it!" Well, I did my share of piling wood a few weeks ago and it was GREAT. So this past Monday, I just hung around the house and tried to get some things done. I actually was successful at cleaning the garage and potentially making space for our vehicle inside the garage believe it or not.

Thursday morning we got up and went with the Kindergarten class to Roaring River State Park in Missouri. Every year at the end of the year, the Kindergarten teachers take their kids to this state park for a day of hiking and learning about nature. I had never been to Roaring River State Park before and it was a delight. The camping grounds there are beautiful. The picnic area was gorgeous. The river that flowed through the park was teeming with trout (for which one must pay a pretty penny to fish). However, the most amazing sight (in this humble scribes opinion) was to go to the headwaters of the river and see the spring gushing forth its 20 million gallons of water per day—INCREDIBLE!

Could you ever conceive of a thirsty person coming upon such a beautiful spring and then rejecting it? However, this is exactly what some did. In Jeremiah 2:13 we read, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me

(Continued on page 2)

the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." In this passage, God's word is likened unto living waters. Some had rejected Him and sought other sources of water. Compared to God, these sources were stagnant. These sources would eventually dry up. These sources were not lasting. Much less could they produce a river of living water. In contrast, God is the "fountain." He is the source. He will never stagnate. He will never dry up. His water is always refreshing and beautiful. His fountain will always produce "living waters." Jesus said to the woman at the well, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

So, let us thirst after righteousness. Let us fill our cups in the overflowing spring of God's truth. Let us take of the waters of life freely and live (Revelation 22:17). Through these waters, God promises life everlasting. "Will you come to the fountain free? 'Tis a fountain open for all!"

Testing our Integrity

Mike Vestal

Vindicate me, O Lord, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart (Psalm 26:1-2).

It's sometimes so hard to do right when we've been wrong, isn't it? But to those who love the Lord, doing right is a matter of integrity. In an age where integrity is practically a forgotten virtue, it is good to remember the importance God places upon it. The word "integrity" in this passage means "completeness, sincerity of purpose, a single-hearted devotion." It is a quality attributed to Job (Job 1:1, 8: 2:3, 9) and is used by God Himself with reference to David in 1 Kings 9:4. It is interesting to note how important integrity is to David. He begins this Psalm by saying, "I have walked in my integrity" (vs.1), and concluded with "I will walk in my integrity" (vs.11). While some talk of truth and faithfulness, it is essential that one walk in those areas as well (1 John 1:7-10). It is David's earnest desire to ever be a man of godliness and integrity.

The appeal for God to "judge" him does not arise out of a sinful sense of pride or self-righteousness, but rather in the fact that he was

honestly seeking to trust in the Lord and to live a life of integrity (Psalms 23:10; 34:22). For one to humbly recognize the need to walk in accordance with God's will is not a sign of arrogance, but of gratitude and love for the riches of God's mercy and grace (Matthew 5:3; 1 Peter 5:6). The road of righteousness is not always an easy one to travel one may slide swerve or waver (Romans 3:10; Joshua 1:7-8). However, as one trusts in God and walks in integrity, he follows the road that leads to great peace and blessedness (John 16:33; Philippians 4:6-7).

The psalmist asks God to "examine," "prove," and to "try" him. These three modes of trial are said to refer to trial by touch, trial by smell and trial by fire. The point is that David is willing for God to give his integrity a complete examination. He makes no claim of perfection, but does claim to sincerely strive to serve God acceptably. The expressions "examine," "prove," and "try" also remind us that God knows all and is completely thorough in His judgment (Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20). We must not only believe what is right; we must also have the integrity to do what is right out of a pure heart (Matthew 5:8; 7:13-27).

These two verses bring out a number of very serious questions for us as Christians. Are we truly people of integrity? Do we resist the urge to do wrong to others when we've been wronged by them? (Cf. Romans 12:19-21). Are we willing to let God "vindicate" us, or are we quick to take matters into our own hands? Are we, like David, Determined to be able to say that we have walked and will continue to walk in integrity? Do we have an honest desire for God to examine us and to thoroughly inspect our character and motives? Can we say, "I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip?" Integrity is something we can't afford to allow to "run low." How's YOUR integrity?

From the WESTSIDE REMINDER
The Westside Church of Christ, Midland, Texas

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley
Deacons: Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Dale Pinkley, Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, 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
Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

Second, God will always keep his promises whether the promise is positive or negative (Isaiah 55:11). There are some who say "God may do what He wishes in matters relating to salvation and if He wants to save someone other than the way that He has specified in His word, He is certainly free to do this." Now this may sound well and good on the surface of things. After all, God is God and He can do what He wants. HOWEVER, when one says such a thing regarding God he is really saying that God does not keep his promises and this is in essence calling God a liar. God keeps His promises whether they are positive promises or negative promises. If God says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16) then you can be absolutely assured that this promise will be kept. If God says that he will render "vengeance on those who obey not the gospel" (2 Thessalonians 1:8), then you can be absolutely assured that God will KEEP this promise. To say that somehow God is going to allow some to be saved who do not both believe and submit to baptism is to call God a liar!

Third, God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). By understanding that God always tells the truth; He never contradicts Himself; He always keeps His promises; one can be assured of a third truth—that God is NOT the author of confusion. Truth is harmonious and beautiful. However, those in the denominational world today say that truth is relative and subjective. Is this a harmonious view of truth? Is this a beautiful view of truth? To say that "everyone is right and no one is wrong" is certainly a view that cannot be reconciled with the FACT that God is NOT the author of confusion. How can "everyone be right" if God is not the author of confusion? It would be an utter lie to say so because confusion would reign supreme if "everyone is right." We must recognize that this simply can't be the case.

God is the author of all truth. He cannot contradict Himself. He always keeps His promises. He cannot be the author of confusion. These are

four great Bible truths that we can stand upon all our life and take with us to the grave. Based upon these truths we can know that the Bible is God's word and that all men will be judged based upon that word. We can know that the teachings of some men are right and some are wrong. We can know that there is only ONE church and that we must be a member of that one church to be saved. We can know that baptism is necessary for remission of sins and salvation and that those who do not submit to it will NOT be saved. We can know that there will be no second chance at salvation. These are all things that the Bible clearly and without equivocation teaches to be TRUE and we can KNOW that if God says it is TRUE that He will NOT contradict these things; that He will keep all of His promises concerning these things; and that there will not be ANY confusion on these things in His word.

Let us honor God by ensuring that we obey His truth, respect His promises, refuse to contradict Him, and refuse to bring confusion into His order.

Remember!
Family and Friends Day
June 9th, 2002
 AND
Vacation Bible School
June 10th — 13th, 2002
Theme: Great Kings of the Bible
 Be sure to pick up the flyers in the foyer and hand out them out to your friends for these great events coming in just TWO weeks!

Sunday's Sermons
For May 26th
MorningOur Attitude in Worship
 Scripture..... Psalm 95:6, 7
Evening The Holy Spirit Part 2
 Scripture.....John 14:26

Our Record
Week of May 19th

Sunday Class	68
Sunday A.M.....	87
Sunday P.M.	66
Wednesday	64
Contribution.....	\$1663.27

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Marty and Michael Collins, Lanita Gonzales, Regina Horton, Opal Hull, Evelyn Johnson, Michael Southerland.
- Hailey Nimmo came home from the children's hospital in Little Rock after a successful adenoid surgery. She is recovering at home with a slight sore throat, but other than that is doing GREAT! We thank God for her successful surgery. Let's continue to pray for her recovery.
- 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 nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Next Sunday night we will have our youth devotional.
- Remember our upcoming Family and Friends day on June 9th. If you have not got a flyer yet, pick one up and let's get the word out!
- Our VBS is fast approaching! Only two more weeks and we will be full swing into this year's theme, GREAT KINGS OF THE BIBLE! Invite all of your friends and DON'T MISS OUT!
- If you have not already got your can for the Paragould Children's home annual "Change for Children" campaign, please pick one up in the foyer.
- The week of June 3rd, the Paragould Children's Home truck is going to come by and pick up our pantry items. This is next week! Let's have our pantry stocked up and ready for them to come!
- Don't forget Ladies Bible Class each Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Bar Soap.



Privileged to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	May 26th, 2002	June 2nd, 2002
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Larry Elliott	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Glenn Quigley	Ken Smith
	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Brent Moore	Bruce Foster
	George Eddings	Hugh Atchley
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Clyde Atchley
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	Ken Smith	Leon Duncan
	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Bob Moore
Invitation:	Larry Elliott	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Clay Bozarth
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Glenn Williams	
Worship Coordinator	Bob Moore	
Communion Prep	Lucille Fort	Donna Henderson
Communion Carry	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth

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