



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

Volume 1, Issue 26

July 28th, 2002

My Visit to the House of an Atheist

Kevin Cauley

Recently I had opportunity to visit the house of an atheist. On one of his end tables were some papers that caught my attention because the title contained "God." It was, however, an effort by someone to prove that God does not exist. It had originally been published in one of the major newspapers as an editorial article. In the article, the writer described how he had recently been to a funeral of a man who committed suicide. The person who preached the funeral (a female denominational preacher) knew of the suicide and during the course of the funeral spoke regarding her own fight with thoughts of suicide. However, she proclaimed that God had saved her from suicide. The Atheist who heard her speech inferred that God directly and personally chose to save her whereas God chose NOT to save him (the man who committed suicide). To which he asked the question, "Why would God choose to save her from suicide but not save this other man who died from suicide? What kind of arbitrary God would make a choice of one human life over the other? Why save one but not another?" This is a very good question.

The answer to this question does not lie in God understanding the usefulness of one person over another nor does it involve God's omniscience of how a person would respond to a given situation verses another. In fact, the argument as stated by the atheist is a good argument. There is only one problem with it. There is a hidden assumption. The assumption is not one made by the Atheist, it is an assumption made by the denominational person preaching the funeral. That assumption is this: God (personally and directly) purposely chooses to save some people, but purposely chooses NOT to save other people.

(Continued on page 2)

Kevin's Korner



Let me say that it was a joy and a delight to be able to go hear Bert Thompson preach in Tulsa this past Saturday. We had a good group of kids (and adults) go as well. Altogether we had about fourteen people from our congregation go. I have not spoken to a single individual who thought that his lectures were anything less than worth spending the time to hear. If you have not availed yourself of the opportunity to hear Bert Thompson I am sure there will be more in the future. Until then, however, we have both of his monthly periodicals in the back, "Reason and Revelation" and "Discovery." "Reason and Revelation" deals primarily with issues related to the study of apologetics—this means they relate to defending the three foundational claims of Christianity namely 1) That God exists, 2) That the Bible is the Word of God, and 3) That Jesus is the Son of God as shown by His resurrection from the dead. This periodical is primarily for adults. "Discovery" however is a publication for children that discuss the same basic issues, but in terms that kids can understand. These are great resources and we encourage everyone to take advantage of them. We will also keep you up to date on Bert Thompson's next scheduled meeting in this area.

I have to brag a little bit on one of our members, (though he will not want me to brag on him, I am sure) but Scott Dewbre is quite an entertainer. If you do not already know this, he is one of the performers in the matinee show at the Ozark Mountain Hoe Down. Scott plays piano, saxophone, and guitar and sings backup in the show but his main talent is comedy. I was not quite aware at how funny he was (though I was aware that he was slightly off, if you know what I

(Continued on page 2)

mean <grin>) until we went to the matinee this past Monday. I was in stitches. If you get an opportunity, go out and hear him perform. I do not think that you will regret having been there.

As many of you know, Mary Lynn and I went out of town this past Thursday to visit an old friend of hers who is dying of cancer. Her name is Theresa Phillips. As of this writing she is in Rochester, Wisconsin at the Methodist hospital which is near the Mayo clinic. The doctors have said that there is nothing more that they can do for her except to make her comfortable. Mary Lynn met Theresa back in Texas at the Birdville church of Christ in Haltom City. This is a suburb of Fort Worth. Theresa hit it off with Mary Lynn so well and was so impressed with her that she learned sign language and became a professional interpreter. Theresa married a godly man who became a preacher and has been supporting him through her efforts in recent years. They are both faithful members of the church and for this both Mary Lynn and I are grateful. While this is comforting, it is particularly hard to see a young Christian leave this life. Theresa is only forty-five years old. One takes comfort, however, in the fact that God always works in ways so that His will is done on the earth and we can be assured that His will is going to be done in the life of Theresa Phillips. We appreciate your prayers for this family and for our safe journey. Thank you for being such a loving congregation and reaching out to us to comfort us in the time of sorrow and joy.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Soon, Theresa will be asleep in Christ, but we rest assured that she will one day be resurrected from the dead to meet her Lord. Let's all strive to live in such a way so that we will be part of the resurrection that is unto life and not part of the resurrection that is unto condemnation (John 5:29).

(Continued from page 1)

This is in fact what mainline denominational bodies teach. This is known as the doctrine of "limited atonement"--that Christ only died for those whom God predestined to be saved and that therefore Christ did NOT die for all men. If this doctrine were true, then the Atheist who made the above argument would be right. God would NOT be just, righteous, nor worthy of devotion--IF this assumption regarding the character of God were true. Herein lies the problem. The assumption is NOT true.

I have no problem affirming that if a god (personally and directly) purposely chooses to save one man over the other that it would be impossible for a god like that to exist. With this I agree with the Atheist 100%. However, the true God of the universe has no such agenda nor does His word contain any such arbitrary, unjust, unrighteous, and unholy non-sense! The Bible teaches that God wants ALL men to be saved and he has put in place a plan whereby ANY person who WANTS to be saved, CAN be saved. I affirm that this is exactly what the Bible teaches (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:16; Acts 10:34; Romans 1:16, 17; 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 22:17). On this true teaching of the scriptures, the atheist has no ground on which to stand. God is NOT an arbitrary God; God is NOT an unjust God; God is NOT an unrighteous God--he is an "equal opportunity" God Who offers salvation to ALL!!!

The doctrine of "limited atonement" is such a blatantly false doctrine that even Atheists recognize it to be false. The harm that it does to God's cause is irreparable. There is no telling how many people read this one atheist's article. How many more will lose their faith because of this evil doctrine? Let us wholeheartedly oppose this teaching and strive to supplant it with the truth of the Gospel. God's plan for man's salvation is for ALL MEN who will hear, believe, and obey it!

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, 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

"A Brokxn Kxy"

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx of the kxys. I havx many timxs wishxd that is workxd pxrfxctly.

It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxmxs to mx that our church is somxthing likx my typx-writxr -- not all thx kxy pxoplx arx working pxprly.

As onx of thxm, you may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson, I don't makx or brxak thx church."

But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx, bxcasx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx your xfforts arx not nxxdx vxy much, rxmxbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation and I am nxxdx vxy much."

This is what happxns to thx wholx church, and multiply this by many timxs -- thx whole thing just doxs not makx sxnsx!

So, don't be a broken key - be a useful one.

Author Unknown

Sunday's Sermons

For July 28th

MorningJake King
Scripture..... Guest Speaker
Evening Premillennialism (2)
Scripture.....Rev.20:6

Concerning Elders

Bobby Key

Four things are necessary in order for a man to become a scriptural elder: (1) He must desire the office of an elder (1 Tim.3:1). That is he must be willing to serve. The office should never be given to a man who doesn't want it. (2) He must possess the qualifications outlined by the Holy Spirit. (3) He must be willing to work. It is not so much an office as it is a work. It is "a good work." A lazy man just does not fit. If an elder is not willing to work at the job, the only honorable thing to do is to resign. The Lord does ot have any "honorary" elders. And last but not least, (4) He must be accepted by the congregation over which he is to serve. No man can lead a people who are not willing to follow his leadership.

A great number of problems in the church could be eliminated by a proper understanding of the type of government which the Lord ordained for his church. The church of Christ is not a Democracy. The church is a Monarchy, with Christ as King. He has all authority in heaven and in earth. Some have the idea that we elect elders much as we do the men in our legislatures and in Congress. They must listen to our desires or we will unseat them. It is common practice in some places to remove and replace elders at the will of the congregation. This practice is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament. Help the godly elder do his job. Encourage him instead of criticizing him. Work with them not against them.

Miami, OK

Our Record

Week of July 21st

Sunday Class	47
Sunday A.M.	61
Sunday P.M.	68
Wednesday	45
Contribution	\$1134.80

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Bryon Guest, Geneva Atchley, Michael Collins, Gene Dauck, Opal Hull, Evelyn Johnson, Frona spencer,

Charles Pogue, Tommy Elliott, Oleta Widner, Theresa Phillips, Brent Stevens.

- We are glad to announce that Beverly Baker's tests have come back and show NO cancer. Let's be thankful!
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Jessica Lovelady is also in the nursing home in room 307.
- Elsie Meadows is in the nursing home in room 212.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Jake King is our guest speaker for today. He and his wife Jessica are our guests. We support them as Jake is going through the Memphis School of Preaching. Please make Jake and Jessica welcome this morning!
- Next Sunday will be our youth devotional. We will need everyone to bring chips and drinks as usual. Please plan on attending.
- Our elders and deacons meeting is tonight after services.
- House to House and Heart to Heart will be put together tonight after services.
- Augusts' pot luck will be a special back to school pot luck. It will be picnic style. Stay tuned for more details.
- Assignments for next month are as follows: Kevin Cauley will do announcements; Bruce Foster and John Gass will carry communion; Neva Welch and Dena Williams will prep communion; Larry Elliot will be the worship coordinator.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Snack Crackers.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	July 28th, 2002	August 4th, 2002
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Glenn Quigley	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth
	Bob Moore	Brent Stevens
(assist)	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
	Bill Fort	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table:	Larry Elliott	George Eddings
	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bill Fort
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Quigley	
Communion Prep	Pat Quigley	Debbie Smith
Communion Carry	Dale Pinkley	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