



Volume 1, Issue 27

August 4th, 2002

A New Way to Know God (?)

Kevin Cauley

Recently I was driving down the road and I noticed a sign on one of the local denominations. It said, "Experience a new way to know God." This really got me to thinking. If God wanted me to know Him, the Creator, the Sustainer, the Giver of life and salvation, how would He reveal himself to me? Are there any new ways to know God--ways in which God has not revealed Himself to us? Better ways than the ways He reveals Himself to us now? Let's think about this question together.

According to Hebrews 1:1, God revealed Himself to people of old times by the prophets in diverse portions and diverse manners. Sometimes God used dreams to reveal things as in the case of Joseph. Sometimes God used divine messengers (we call them angels) as in the case of Lot at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorra. Sometimes God revealed Himself directly in the form of a person such as in the case of Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15). Most of the time, however, God spoke through prophets--men who preached His word to the people. According to Peter, this involved the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter wrote regarding these prophets: "...holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). This was the way in which God once made Himself known to men.

Today there is only one way that God makes Himself known to us--it is through the person of Jesus the Christ. The Hebrew writer continues the thought in Hebrews 1:2 that in these last days God has spoken to us by His Son. Jesus is the **only** means through which we can come to know God today. The best way for one person to reveal himself to another person is to TELL that person **in person** what he or she wants the other to know. This is what God has done through Jesus. He has told us, in the person of Jesus, what He

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Kevin's Korner

Saturday morning I received a phone call from Delma Allen that her mother, Elsie Meadows, had passed away. We extend our deepest sympathies to Delma and her sister Delfia Smith on their loss. There will be a family visitation on Tuesday evening at Nelson's funeral chapel and the memorial service will be held at the same location on Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. The burial will be at McCullough cemetery. I did not know Elsie Meadows for very long. She was a member of the church at Oak Grove for many years until she could no longer attend due to her age and health. She recently celebrated her one hundred and first birthday. The best thing that we can say about Elsie (or about anyone at their passing) is that she was a Christian. The Bible says, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

I was also informed this past week of another death in relationship to Brent Stevens. His aunt, Linda Dyer passed away this past week. The funeral was held yesterday (Saturday). Brent and Shawna left early to attend. Brent's aunt was also a member of the Lord's church. We extend our deepest sympathies to this family as well.

As many of you know, Leon Duncan and Bruce Foster were appointed to the office of the elder last week. We are indeed blessed to have so many qualified men in the eldership. Let's each one of us strive to support and honor them in their new roles and pray for them daily in their work.

We rejoice that Julie Atchley, granddaughter of Hugh and Geneva Atchley was baptized last Sun-

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day. It is wonderful to have a new birth into the kingdom of God! Julie lives in Florida with her parents, but they were here on vacation when she made her decision.

We have several events planned for the month of August. This coming Friday is our father/son sleepover at the church building. This is something that I personally am looking forward to and I hope that all who are able can attend with their sons or fathers as the case may be. Rusty is planning some really great activities and several are going to bring some games. It promises to be a great event. Then, Saturday morning, we can all get up and cook breakfast for the men of the congregation for our regularly scheduled men's breakfast.

Two weeks from today (Sunday) we are going to have our back to school picnic lunch here at the church building. We are going to have Barbeque, Ribs, and all the "fixins." We can use this opportunity as a means of evangelism. Let's invite all of our friends and neighbors out for this event. Let them know that they are welcome to come over and get some home cookin'. As mentioned in the back of the bulletin there is a sign up sheet in the foyer for all of the items that we need to bring to complement our meal. I sure hope that you will all make plans to be at this wonderful opportunity for us to engage in fellowship one with another.

Back to School is just around the proverbial bend. The kids start back to school on August 19th! Everyone is a year older, and hopefully a year wiser and being promoted into the next grade level. Although I have not been around the community very long, it seems, from my estimation, that we have a very good school district. It is up to citizens of the community to ensure that it remains that way. Let's all give our best effort this year to encourage our teachers, principles, and the superintendent to have a great school year! Someone once said that the three "R's" of learning are "Repetition, repetition, repetition!" Certainly that is the case. The students who go back to school this fall will no doubt review material that they have already learned and renew it fresh within their minds. This process is not only essential for students, but also for adults! The old saying still stands, "If you don't use it, you will lose it!" My daddy used to tell me, "Son I have forgotten more about Algebra than you will ever know" and he was right! Peter puts it like this, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12). The basics are always worth repeating!

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wants us to know. I recently read story about one of the presidents of the United States who was standing on the edge of a yacht. He had been there for some time just staring intently into the ocean. The people around wondered what great thought was pulsing through the president's mind. At last he turned around, looked at the crowd and spoke. "Do you see that seagull over there?" he asked. The crowd listened intently. "I do believe," he said, "that it is dead." Oh the disappointment that must have swelled through the crowd to think that their president would be considering such low thoughts. Disappointment, however, only due to the fact that he had not revealed his mind to them; they assumed him to be thinking great things. All the speculation of those around could not reveal what he alone could. God reveals himself through the person and life of Jesus Christ--His Son. To know God we merely need to know the Son and He has revealed the Son to us in His word. John boldly states, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*" (John 1:18).

While there will be some who will enter that denomination which purports a "new way to know God," I will not be one of them. God has given us the only way to know Him today--the Bible. The Bible contains the history of the preservation of the people from which His Son arrived. The Bible contains the story of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son. The Bible contains the continued story of the kingdom of God's Son through the efforts of the apostles and prophets in the church. It is complete in its revelation (Jude 3; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:25). There are no "new ways" to know God today. God has revealed Himself to us in the greatest possible way--personally through His Son, Jesus the Christ. And through the excellencies of His knowledge we can come to know Him (Phillippians 3:8-10).

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: 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

The Church of Me

Bobby Dockery

"Let's talk about me!" insists a recent country song. For millions, that is more than a song -- it is a whole philosophy of lie! It's the credo of their religion; the nursery of their personality; the driving force of their existence. And many modern churches have shamelessly opted to go along. They recruit members under the banner: "Have it your way!"

This arrogant egoism permeates almost every area of modern life. It is the appeal of most advertising. One commercial simpers, "This I do for me." Another opines, "I'm worth it." Best selling books advise us on how to feel good about ourselves, get what we want, and do what we please. Even much of what goes under the name of religion today panders to person preference: What I like... What I want... **My own** felt needs... The impact of this mentality can be readily seen...

1) In Society. A pervading atmosphere of selfishness poisons many social relationships. Marriages disintegrate because husbands and wives are unwilling to alter their ego-centered demands. Friendships are sacrificed to the ruthless drive to enlarge self. The nation faces political chaos because every special interest is determined to bend policy its own way! How completely unlike the Christian concept of love which "does not insist on its own way!" (1 Corinthians 13:5.) The focus of Christ-like living is: "Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor." (1 Corinthians 10:24).

2) In Morality. The "Church of Me" approach to life exalts the individual as the final authority in everything. There are no absolutes and the individual is left to determine "what is right for himself." Ernest Hemingway summed up this approach to morality when he wrote: "What is moral is what you feel good after." The Bible insists, however, that morality has an absolute basis in the absolute holiness of God. (1 Peter 1:15). The folly of "me-based morality" is well summed up in the Biblical warning: "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12).

3) In Religion. Ours is an age when person preference is allowed to trump Divine commandment! This is well illustrated by an ad which appeared for a new church in Santa Rosa, California, which proclaimed: "We are basically Protestant, but with a few minor differences. We love gay people... We also think it is all right to drink... and to smoke marijuana." Jesus rejected the "Church of Me" approach to religion when He said: "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9).

The Bible warns that self makes a very inadequate God! Christ alone is deserving of our worship as "the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God." (1 Timothy 1:17). The litmus test of authentic Christianity is "Father, not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42).

Fayetteville, Ark.

"Ours is an age when preference is allowed to trump Divine commandment"

Sunday's Sermons

For August 4th

Morning **The Lamb of God**
 Scripture.....John 1:29, 36
Evening **A Word Fitly Spoken**
 Scripture.....Proverbs 25:11

Our Record

Week of 7/28

Sunday Class	65
Sunday A.M.....	89
Sunday P.M.	70
Wednesday	65
Contribution.....	\$1713.32

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Michael Collins, Evelyn Johnson, Oleta Widener.

- Elsie Meadows passed away early Saturday morning. The funeral will be Wednesday, 10:00 AM at Nelson's chapel and the burial will be at McCullough cemetery following.
- Due to the funeral, ladies Bible class will be cancelled for this week.
- Brent Stevens aunt, Linda Dyer, passed away this past week. The funeral was held yesterday.
- 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.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson remain at home at this time.
- Our youth devotional is tonight at the church building. Please bring drinks and chips.
- Questions and answers are next week. Be sure to put your Bible questions into the question box in my office.
- Instead of our regular potluck this month, we will have a Back to School Picnic Lunch on the 3rd Sunday. We have volunteers to supply the meat. There is a sign up sheet for the rest of the food in the foyer.
- Friday night we will have a Father/Son sleepover at the church building. Bring games, movies, and FOOD! Let's get together and have a great time.
- Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast.
- Remember Kevin and Rusty's trip to Costa Rica!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Green Beans.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	August 4th, 2002	August 11th, 2002
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth	Bill Fort
	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
(assist)	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
	Raymond Kimes	Glenn Williams
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Lord's Table:	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
	Ray Duncan	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Kevin Cauley	
Worship Coordinator	Larry Elliott	
Communion Prep	Dena Williams	Neva Welch
Communion Carry	Bruce Foster	John Gass

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.

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