



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 34

September 22nd, 2002

The Inconsistency of God

David Deffenbaugh

Consistency gives us trouble. We struggle with it. We want it in ourselves and we expect it in others, but we know it's hard to come by. The statement, "Oh consistency, thou art a jewel", recognizes the value and beauty of consistency but also it's rarity. Some, apparently, have given up the struggle for consistency and thus another statement, "Consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

God, there being none greater than He, is able to achieve what we cannot. Since He is all powerful and all knowing and all-everything-else, can we not expect Him to be consistent? If perfect consistency is to be achieved, it ought to be able to be found with God, right?

When we think about that theoretically, we say that yes, not only can God be consistent, He is perfectly consistent. But then we look in our world and see some great inconsistencies. Some places are being flooded, while others are suffering horrible drought; some nations are enduring crippling poverty while others are bathed in luxury; some peoples enjoy religious freedoms while others are oppressed and persecuted. Where is the consistency in God's world?

Perhaps even more troubling is what seems to be grave inconsistency in God's dealing with His people. The Bible even reflects this struggle. In the Psalms are found many calls and appeals to God for help by His people who are in trouble. On the one hand we observe those who are praising God because, "On the day I called Thou didst answer me" (Psa. 138:3). On the other hand are those who "have cried out by day and in the night before You...have cried out to You for help, and in

Kevin's Korner



By the time you read this paragraph, Rusty and I will be in Costa Rica working with the congregation in Tres Rios. We are excited about going and being part of the efforts down there. We have made all of the necessary arrangements and as I write we are packing the last vestiges of our attire and making all of the final preparations. Rusty will have already picked me up on Saturday morning and we will have left from the airport in Springfield. We have a transfer in Dallas and then from there to Costa Rica. We have an agenda set and planned for our trip there that we have been working on for months now. Both Rusty and I are going to be preaching on the theme, "Be ye reconciled to God!" We will also be having several Bible studies each day and visiting members every day to see how they are doing. Please continue to pray for us while we are away and for our safe return as well. We covet your prayers.

Austin's arm is now in a "hard" cast. We visited the doctor on Thursday of this past week and he put Austin's arm into a light-blue cast (this is what Austin requested). He said that the bone will heal fine since Austin has plenty of more growing to do.

I also spoke with Denna Dickey this past week. She has returned to work. She had mentioned to some of us that she was going to move to a downstairs apartment, but the doctor told her it would be good for her to walk up and down the stairs, so she has changed her mind. We are so glad that she is feeling better!

Jackie Pinkley also has had some complications with her pregnancy and the family requests your prayers. She was in the hospital in room 150 on Thursday when I went by to visit her. Let's pray that she and her baby will be safe and healthy!

Gospel Meeting



Preacher: David Deffenbaugh
of Tahlequah Oklahoma

Sunday October 6th through
Wednesday October 9th

Our Theme:

Jesus Said

9:30 AM Sunday Class

***Why Should We Care What Jesus
Said?***

10:20 AM Sunday Worship
"Come To Me"

6:00 PM Sunday
"You Cannot Be My Disciple"

7:00 PM Monday
***"The Way is Narrow That Leads to
Life"***

7:00 PM Tuesday
"I Will Never Leave You"

7:00 PM Wednesday
"I Will Build My Church"

Be there with us!

the morning my prayer comes before You." (Psa. 88:1,13). The response to all of this crying out? "O LORD, why do You reject my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?" (Psa. 88:14).

There is no apparent difference in trust and confidence in God on the part of the two Psalmists, yet God's response is quite different. Where is God's consistency?

Here are some things to keep in mind if we're troubled by God's apparent inconsistency. First of all, the inconsistency is just that, apparent. Our determination of fairness or consistency of God's actions is based on what we know. And we know so little. God does not operate on the same level of knowledge and understanding that we do. As a matter of fact his actions and thoughts are infinitely higher (Isa. 55:8-9). Just because God doesn't fit our criteria for consistency is very far from our being able to say He is inconsistent.

Secondly, we must realize that there is a "higher" principle than consistency based upon which God deals with His children; and that is our need. Is it really best for every person to be treated exactly the same or to be treated based on their need? Any parent (of more than one child) know this. Yes, consistency is a goal in dealing with two or more children, but those children's needs are not the same and they must be dealt with according to their need.

And third, let's not forget that God is sovereign. He answers to no one. Not the least of all, us. We may be troubled by what appear to inconsistencies in the world that we feel God ought to deal with, but let me pass along some advice that was given to me by a wise, older gentleman. We need to leave the job of running the world to God and remember what our job is; being faithful to Him.

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

"Witnessing"

Kevin Cauley

More and more I hear of members of the church speaking about "witnessing" and less frequently do I hear about members of the church speaking about teaching the gospel of Christ. While the term "witness" is a biblical one and while many people speak of "witnessing" within the denominational world, perhaps we should wonder if the way the Bible uses the term and the way the denominations use the term agree. Are Christians allowing the denominational world to change our ways or are Christians seeking to change the ways of denominations? It appears that in this terminology we have allowed denominationalism to take control.

As I look at all the different ways in which the word witness is used in the scriptures, I don't find a single solitary instance in which it is used in the same way that most religious people use the word today. We see that the apostles were eye-witnesses of the resurrection and so was the apostle Paul (Acts 1:22; 4:33; 22:15). The Holy Spirit was a witness to the Jews that the Gentiles were to receive the gospel message (Acts 15:8). God gave witness to the apostles and prophets through miraculous signs and wonders that what they said and taught was true (Hebrews 2:4). John writes that the record that God gave of His Son, Jesus, is the witness that is in us, if we believe that record (1 John 5:9,10). However, we never read of an inspired teacher telling Christians to go out and "witness" for Christ. "Preach the gospel"--Yes. "Witness"--No. Where does this concept come from?

When a member of a denomination stands up and "witnesses" they usually tell of all the "great things" God has done for them in their life. Perhaps they will speak about how God saved them from drugs. Perhaps they will speak about how God helped them get over a financial crisis. Perhaps they will speak about how God helped them become a good father or mother. The witnessing is always "how God personally helped me." The focus of these "testimonies" is upon the individual's personal experience. From this, those who listen to the "witness" are supposed to conclude that God will work some kind of personal experience for them as well and that they are supposed to come to believe in God based upon this

"testimony." Notice, however, that the faith that is generated by these "testimonies" does not come from God's word, but from someone's personal, subjective experience. Herein lies the danger; the Bible says that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Those who stand up and give personal "testimonies" and "witness" for God are doing the world no favor. They are not preaching the word of God--they are preaching their own subjective, emotional experiences. They are causing people to believe something other than the word of God, and that is NOT biblical faith.

Perhaps someone might say, "Well, the Holy Spirit is really the one who is witnessing." No doubt, this is what many believe today who participate in this kind of thing. However, the Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion according to 1 Corinthians 14:33 and the Holy Spirit wrote Romans 10:17. Now is the Holy Spirit going to say that faith comes by hearing the word at one point in time and then turn around and say that faith comes by doing something OTHER than hearing the word at another point in time? For someone to say such would be indicting the Holy Spirit of a lie. Either faith comes by hearing the word of God or it does not. Either the Holy Spirit told the truth when He said that faith comes by hearing the word of God or these people who are "witnessing" today are lying. I will stick with the Holy Spirit's inspired words, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

Why would Christians get caught up in such foolishness? Do they no longer believe that faith comes by hearing the word of God? Do they believe that their simple personal stories are more important than the story of the cross? Do they believe that God's saving power lies within their own personal experience as opposed to the resurrection of the Son of God? Let us, as Christians, put away such speech from our vocabulary. Let's believe what the Bible has to say about how faith comes and resolve to preach God's word instead of exalting our own personal experience above the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Let resolve not to know anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). Let's resolve to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).

Berryville, AR























Sunday's Sermons

For 09/22

Morning Larry Elliott
Scripture..... TBA
Evening Larry Elliott
Scripture..... TBA

Our Record

Week of 09/15

							
							
	Sunday Class						66
	Sunday A.M.....						79
	Sunday P.M.						62
	Wednesday						64
	Contribution.....						\$1531.10
							

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Austin Cauley, Denna Dickey, Opal Hull, Jackie Pinkley, Katie Williams.

- 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 afternoon will be our singing at the nursing home at 2:00 PM. Let's everyone make an effort to show up and sing, sing, sing!
- Please meet tonight after services to put together House to House and Heart to Heart. We will be including flyers for our gospel meeting in this so I am sure that Trish will want some help!
- Don't forget our gospel meeting coming up VERY soon. We are only two weeks away now!
- Moises and Maritsa will be coming at the end of October to visit for a period of several weeks. If you would like for them to visit with you please contact the Forts.
- Due to my absence from the country, there will be no bulletin next week! I will labor to get one out the following week, however. Please remember Rusty and I in your prayers as we labor in Costa Rica this week.
- One of the works that we support is Eastern European Missions. Last year they raised over a million dollars to have Bibles sent to Eastern Europe. They have asked us to pray for this good work on September 29th. Ken Smith will be coordinating this special prayer time during our morning worship.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Paper Cups.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	September 22nd, 2002	September 29th, 2002
Song Leader:	Clyde Atchley	Bill Fort
Preacher:	Larry Elliott	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Larry Elliott
Scripture:	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	George Eddings	John Gass
	John Gass	Bruce Foster
(assist)	Perry Foster	Glenn Quigley
	Raymond Kimes	George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Ken Smith
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Larry Elliott	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	John Gass
Scripture:	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
	Bob Moore	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Rusty Windle	
Worship Coordinator	Brent Stevens	
Communion Prep	Tiffany Windle	Joann Bragg
Communion Carry	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley

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@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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