



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 35

October 6th, 2002

Whose Way?

David Deffenbaugh

"Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." (Psalm 37:5)

Is there anything we desire more than the Lord's blessing? In our serious, sober, most thoughtful moments we know that being blessed by God is the very best we can hope for. We ask God to bless our families, the sick, our congregations, our shepherds, the president, the nation, etc., etc. We know the Lord's blessing is the ultimate determination of success or failure, of victory or defeat, of achievement or disappointment.

Some of the most dearly loved of Scriptures pertain to God's blessing. Jesus initiates the most famous of all sermons with a series of pronouncements of blessedness. We know them, of course, as the "Beatitudes." Another beautiful pronouncement of blessing, directed for priests to announce upon the sons of Israel, and words put to music in a beautiful hymn: "The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26).

But what assurance do we have of God's blessing? How can we know God has blessed us? Prosperity is not a final indicator. Physical and material blessing can and do come from God, but there are "many foolish and harmful desires" associated with material wealth (1 Tim. 6:9). What's more, even the wicked prosper in this way (Psa. 37:16, 35).

Getting what we want is not the key either. Many times we may ask God for things that are not what is best for us. God may very well tell us "No", and by doing so is in a sense bless us by keeping us from being "cursed" by the harmful or hurtful thing we thought we needed.

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Kevin's Korner

As everyone knows, last week Rusty and I were in Costa Rica. We hit the ground running and never stopped until we got back onto the plane to Dallas. I suppose that I could write about the entire trip and take up several pages, but I won't do that. Instead, I want to focus on some spiritual highlights. Sunday morning we met with the church and had worship and Bible study hour. The congregation there is growing and doing well. We had somewhere between 40-60 in attendance throughout the week. The Christians there are very friendly and outgoing. Everywhere we went we were invited to lunch and/or coffee. We ate very well. We had home Bible studies in three different houses. One of those studies resulted in a baptism. The other studies have yet to bear fruit, but I am confident with some time, learning, and God's long-suffering God will grant the increase. The meeting was well attended with several visitors each evening. We also had opportunity to visit some Christians outside of the central valley area of Costa Rica. Many hearts are being opened to the gospel. In one small rural location, a brother reported getting forty bible studies from one door knocking campaign. Truly the fields are white for the harvest. Overall, it was a very good visit. We were able to exhort and encourage the brethren there and in turn they encouraged us as well. Everyone there said to say "hello" to all the brethren in Berryville and to say that they loved us very much. Both Rusty and I look forward to returning again in the future.

Many of you are probably wondering how Moises and Maritsa are doing in Costa Rica. They are doing well, and we will have an opportunity to extend our hospitality to them next month. They

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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!

are scheduled to come to the United States in November. The exact dates are from November 19th through December 7th. They will be spending both the first and the last weekend with friends in Searcy, but in between those times they will be with us. We all will be working on a schedule of activities for Moises and Maritsa. They have a few things that they would like to do personally, of course, but if you have any activity to which you would like to invite them, please let Rusty or me know so we can start planning their itinerary.

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The secret (and it is really no secret) is to "commit your way to the Lord". That does not mean to simply do what we have chosen to do and say that it is committed to God. Rather, we are to give ourselves over to God's will and God's way; to be guided by his revealed will. To commit a deed or activity or ministry to God that is pursued in disregard to His expressed will is the height of pretension and presumptuousness. We must commit our way to Him first, then be directed by His will. "Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it." (Psa. 37:34). As Moses requested, "...teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you." (Ex. 33:13; NIV)

In the same vein, the verse preceding our text states, "Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart." (Psa. 37:4). It's not that God is promising to give us whatever our heart desires, but when our genuine and true delight is the Lord then all of our desires will be to Him and for Him all such desires will be honored.

In search of God's blessing? They are found in God's way. A pertinent question becomes, "Am I honestly submitting myself to God's way or simply asking Him to bless the way I have already chosen?"

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 Carroll County Augurer's Society

Kevin Cauley

Every week is an adventure of the mind here in Berryville. Just when you think that you have "seen it all" something happens to make you realize that there are no bounds to which people will go in their minds to justify their own preconceived notions about how they think God works in their lives. What was so shocking about my most recent encounter with one of these minds is that the very thing which was called upon to prove God's working in one's life was exactly the kind of thing that has been used in the past by pagans and which the Bible specifically condemns. To what am I referring, you might ask. I am speaking of nothing less than the practice of augury.

I was taken by surprise this past week when a person from the community told me a story regarding the conception of her son. She said that she and her husband had tried for many years to have a child, but without success. When they finally decided to adopt, they conceived. I have heard many stories like this, but never in the context of what I was about to be told. The woman proceeded to tell me that she believed that the conception of her child was a miracle. The evidence that she put forth in regard to proof was that at the time of her conception she saw eagles in the sky. In other words, the eagles were an omen or portent that she was going to be the recipient of a miracle from God. This kind of thinking is no less than what the Bible describes as augury.

Among the ancient pagans, augury was practiced very prominently. The International Bible Encyclopedia entry states that this practice was commonly observed by the Romans and Greeks.

Augurers of that day looked at celestial signs, lighting, signs from the flights of birds, movement of animals and snakes, signs from the examination of animal intestines, and the flight of arrows. Often times a sacrifice was made before the omens were examined. This was to propitiate the gods. However, in Leviticus 19:26 God specifically condemns such practices. We read in the ASV, "Ye shall not eat anything with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantments, nor practice augury." This prohibition is also mentioned in Deuteronomy 18:10,14; 2 Kings 21:6; and 2 Chronicles 33:6. Revelation 21:8 also condemns this practice under the category of sorcery.

How someone who claims to be a Christian can think that God's approval comes through some ancient pagan practice mystifies me greatly. It just goes to show the extent to which people are willing to believe whatever they want to believe as a justification for their own thoughts and concepts. The Bible still says that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). It does not say that faith comes by watching the birds fly in the sky. Herein lies the problem with all such types of thought. It causes an individual to trust something other than the word of God and when we start to put our faith and trust in things other than God's word, we have already given Satan the green light to control our lives. This is why the practice of sorcery is wrong; this is why the organization WICCA is wrong and sinful; this is why those who claim modern day miracles are wrong as well--because each of these are attempts to replace God's word with the word of mere men.

Let us keep our mind centered on God's thoughts as we know them to be revealed through the scriptures. Studying God's word is the only way to produce faith in our life today. Let us learn it, love it, and live it each and every day of our life.

Sunday's Sermons

For October 6th

Morning "Come to Me"
 Scripture..... TBA
Evening . "You Cannot Be My Disciple"
 Scripture..... TBA

Our Record

Week of 09/29

Sunday Class	63
Sunday A.M.....	82
Sunday P.M.	71
Wednesday	65
Contribution.....	\$1472.75

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Austin Cauley, Opal Hull, Janie Keck, Gladys Kimes.

- We extend our sympathy to Debbie Duncan and family in the loss of her niece, Lisa Williamson.
- 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 are confined to their homes at this time.
- Sunday night we will have our youth devotional at Brent and Shawna's house. Please bring some food and drinks with you for this event.
- Our gospel meeting starts today! It is not too late to invite people to come. Let's make an effort to get as many as possible over for this great opportunity for Bible study.
- If you would like to have David Defenbaugh in your home this week for lunch, please let me know!
- Next Sunday we will have our question and answer night. Be sure to get those questions in the box today!
- Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. Let's make our plans to attend. We did not have a men's breakfast last month due to the picnic at Roaring River. These are also good opportunities for evangelism.
- Moises and Maritsa are coming to Berryville! If you would like to be included in their schedule, please let Kevin or Rusty know about your plans.
- There will be a special event the last Sunday of this month. More to come.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Pinto Beans.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	October 6th, 2002	October 13th, 2002
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	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	Matt Bassing
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Dale Pinkley	Brian Scheller
Lord's Table:	Brent Stevens	Matt Bassing
	Larry Elliott	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Brian Scheller	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	John Gass	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Quigley	
Communion Prep	Wilma Morris	Beth Duncan
Communion Carry	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott

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:
Berryville Church of Christ
 909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616