



The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon

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



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November 17th, 2002

The Mission and Work of the Church

Kevin Cauley

God, in His wisdom, saw fit from eternity to establish the church. Ephesians 3:10 and 11 reads, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." This organization of men and women which God through Christ established is not **merely** a social association or fraternity. It is much more than simply that. The church is God's continuing plan for man's salvation. It is the place of the saved on earth. It is the hand through which God propagates his message upon the earth today. This means that the church has a peculiar work to do. God has charged the church with this work and only the church with this work. We, as the church, have a responsibility to ensure that this work gets done.

What exactly, however, has God charged the church to do? That is a question, the answer to which we find in the scriptures. The church has a single mission--to save souls. This was the mission of her Lord (Luke 19:10) and this is the mission with which the church is charged today (1 Tim.1:15, 16). How the church goes about that mission is threefold. There is within the church the need to exhort and to strengthen the brethren (Heb.3:13). This is one aspect of the work of the church. We call this edification. There is also the need to preach the gospel to the lost (Acts 16:10). We call this as evangelism. Finally, the church has a special work that covers ministering to both those within and without the church. This work is the work of taking care of those who are in need (Gal.6:10). We call this benevolence.

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Kevin's Korner

We express our sympathies to two families this week. Yesterday morning at 10:00 here at our building we held the memorial service for Jessica Lovelady. This afternoon, the memorial service for Bonnie Koph, Mary Nimmo's mother, will be held in Boulder City, MO. Both of these ladies were Christians. Both had hope for eternal life. I knew Jessica for just under a year. I visited with her regularly and she was a delight. I am going to miss her presence as I make my rounds each week to visit with our older members. Bonnie I knew briefly. She lived in Missouri. She came down to visit with us on Sunday morning regularly. She always seemed very appreciative to be able to worship in the church. Both ladies were a blessing to us. Both ladies have received their reward. Let us labor so as to receive the reward and hear those blessed words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



Tomorrow! Yes, tomorrow! No, I am not procrastinating, I am announcing the day that our Costa Rican guests will be arriving. That's right. Tomorrow! That is the day that Moises and Maritsa will arrive here in Arkansas. We are blessed to have them here with us. They will be in Berryville on Tuesday and at worship on Wednesday night! We have so many good things planned for them. You will want to participate in as many of the activities that we have scheduled during their stay here. First, we have planned a short Hispanic gospel meeting, November 24th through the 26th, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. We want everyone to invite as many members of the Hispanic community as possible. We have ads running in the paper for this event. There are flyers in the foyer that we want you to take and

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hand out to any members of the Hispanic community that you know this week. Remember also that we are moving our potluck from today to next week. This is so that Moises and Maritsa can share in this wonderful time of fellowship with us. Remember that we may have additional guests next week, so be sure to bring extra for our guests.

Thanksgiving is creeping up on us quick! Each year this wonderful holiday is a time to get together and be thankful for family, friends, and FOOD! Some, however, don't have a place to go at thanksgiving. This is just something that Mary Lynn and I will not tolerate! So, we want to invite anyone who does not have a place to go for thanksgiving to come to our house and have a thanksgiving feast. Please let Mary Lynn or I know if you will be coming over so we can plan accordingly. We want to make this an enjoyable holiday for everyone.

Ladies, mark your calendar for this coming Wednesday. There will be a "potluck" thanksgiving luncheon after ladies Bible class. The turkey will be supplied and the rest will be up to you. Bring your favorite thanksgiving dish to this meal and make it a wonderful time for fellowship and fun.

"Christmas time is comin'." Yes, we are already starting to plan for Christmas. Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 6th at Quigley's Castle (that's Ken and Debbie's place in case you didn't know). For supper we each need to bring a dish--the theme is Mexican. For the exchange of gifst, here are the rules. Each adult is to bring a generic gift (that would be suitable for either a woman or a man). Bring something for your child as well so that they can have something to open during the party. Please limit gifts to \$5.00 and under. Other than that, Debbie says, "Expect absolutely no civility."

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

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Every other aspect of the work of the church of which we can think will easily fall under these three categories.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church." In Acts 2 we first see the message of the kingdom of God and the terms of entrance into the church. In Acts 2:47 we read, "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." The church was involved from the beginning in the work of evangelism. It was the Lord's great commission to the apostles which lead to the beginning of the church on Pentecost and it was the continued efforts of the church in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ that lead to her growth and vitalization in the world.

Not only did the early church practice evangelism, but mutual edification. Great persecution came upon the early church in its infant years that threatened the life of the early church, but through edification of one another, the church survived and prospered. One such opportunity occurred after Peter and John had healed a lame man at the beautiful gate. Luke writes concerning their arrival back among the church in Acts 3:24 "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them." Verse 29 of that chapter says that they prayed, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word." Such great encouragement among the church guaranteed their ongoing success.

The early church also had a passion for caring for the poor. We read early on of the great needs which were met by some very generous folk who sold their possessions and lands and laid them at the feet of the apostles in Acts 4:32-37. The church at Antioch also purposed to relieve the poor among the church in Jerusalem by taking a collection from the gentile Christians (Acts 11:29, 30; Romans 15:26). Paul exhorted the elders at Ephesus to remember the poor (Acts 20:35) and Paul acknowledged that this was something he was always mindful to do (Galatians 2:10). These things he taught everywhere in every church that he established (1 Corinthians 4:17).

Are we ensuring that we are carrying out this threefold work of the church today? The mission that the church has depends upon our faithful execution of this pattern. There is no other organization that has the same mission as that of the church--to save souls. Let us resolve to do so in the authorized ways that God has set before us in the scriptures. By evangelizing, edifying, and practicing benevolence the church can carry on this great work today.

BE PERSISTENT!

Carl Hanson

Ezekiel was a prophet of God during the time of the exile in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Not only did God's message through him make reference the kingdom of Israel's sin, but also Judah's. God's warnings had not been heeded (even from the prophet Jeremiah) and so Jerusalem and the temple were soon destroyed, with only the very poor to be left in the land. God had continued to encourage through Jeremiah that there would eventually be a remnant who would return while punishment would be handed out against the other nations, including Babylon.

As God was sending His prophet, Ezekiel, WOULD THE PEOPLE BE MORE WILLING TO LISTEN NOW? Ezekiel would be carried away to speak God's message to the exiles living "Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar," (Ezekiel 3:15). Before he began, God encouraged him toward persistence even in the face of a rebellious people. God said, "YOU SHALL SPEAK MY WORDS TO THEM, WHETHER THEY HEAR OR WHETHER THEY REFUSE, for they are rebellious." (Ezekiel 2:7 NKJV).

The message was to be spoken whether accepted or not. Ezekiel was to be persistent. God knew full well the unwillingness of Israel to listen. (Ezekiel 3:7) They hadn't listened to God, why would they listen to Ezekiel? Facing such an audience, it would be easy for God's messenger to be-

come discouraged and quit. But God encouraged Ezekiel to PREACH ON. In view of Israel's hardening, God told Ezekiel, "BEHOLD, I HAVE MADE YOUR FACE STRONG AGAINST THEIR FACES, AND YOUR FOREHEAD STRONG AGAINST THEIR FOREHEADS." (Ezekiel 3:8).

Ezekiel was not to give in or give up. He was to meet their stubbornness with a stubborn persistence in HOLDING OUT GOD'S MESSAGE.

Now, what can we learn from this? First of all -- God's message is important and has His authority behind it. Therefore, as we share it, let us make sure it is God's message and not our own. The problem with God's people at this time was that they had listened to messengers other than the ones He had sent. Second -- we ought to be persistent in HOLDING OUT THE TRUTH regardless of opposition. It may take time, and we may get discouraged and frustrated at times, but eventually the message is going to soften some of those hardened hearts. There is great joy in seeing the power of God's Word finally take hold in lives to whom we have allow God to use us in consistent and persistent ways.

As our mission is to share the message of light to a world in darkness, let us press on in SHARING THE MESSAGE OF HOPE IN CHRIST. As freely as we have received that hope, may we persist in SHARING it with those around us.

Have a great day ENCOURAGED BY GOD IN OUR SHARING!

From TeEn Mail

Subscribe @ cwlehanson@cablespeed.com

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58

Sunday's Sermons

For 11/17

Morning "I am the Good Shepherd"

Scripture..... John 10:11-14

Evening The Unexamined Life

Scripture..... 2 Corinthians 13:5

Our Record

Week of November 10th

Sunday Class63

Sunday A.M.....84

Sunday P.M.57

Wednesday71

Contribution.....\$1769.80

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We thank God for the blessing of life and health today!
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley's mother, Virgil Butler, Amy Harp, Courtney Moore, Helen Nystrom, Charles Swink, Virgil Vanwinkle, Oleta Widener.
- We express our sympathies to the family of Jessica Lovelady who passed from this life this past Wednesday.
- We also express our sympathies to the family of Bonnie Koph who passed into the next life this past Thursday. Bonnie was the mother of Mary Nimmo.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Art Roberts and Mary Patterson.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting will be tonight after services. Please make your plans to attend.
- House to House has come in and is ready to be assembled. Please get with Trish Foster to help in this work.
- Helen Swink is leaving for Arizona today. Please remember her in your prayers.
- The Truth for Today commentary series is still available for purchase at about \$30.00.
- Personal donations for the Truth for Today work will still be accepted through today. Mark your contribution.
- Our monthly potluck is scheduled for NEXT week instead of today. Please plan on coming as Moises and Maritsa will be with us at this time.
- There are still yard signs available in the foyer.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Canned Peaches.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	November 17th, 2002	November 24th, 2002
Song Leader:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Moises Umana
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Clyde Atchley
Scripture:	Brent Moore	Matt Bassing
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Larry Elliott	Bob Moore
	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table:	Matt Bassing	Leon Duncan
	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
Closing Prayer	Hugh Atchley	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	John Gass
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Larry Elliott
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Bruce Foster	
Communion Prep	Lucille Fort	Pat Foster
Communion Carry	Bob Moore	Ken Smith

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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