



Volume 1, Issue 44

December 15th, 2002

Why Be Rational in Religion?

Kevin Cauley

I was talking with someone the other day regarding coming to the services. The person explained that he was going to a denomination right now because his child liked going to this place. That is when this thought crossed my mind. Would I leave any other major decision in my life up to a child? If I were to go buy a car for the family, would I let the child decide which dealership to go to? Which model to drive? If I were buying a house or looking for a job, would I put that decision solely in the hands of my child? Granted they might get some input, but children are just not equipped to make those kinds of important decisions. Now take the fact that the soul is the most valuable commodity that man owns today and then ask yourself, "Would you put the decision for what to do with your soul in the hands of your child, merely based upon your child's likes and dislikes?" This seemed to me to be a very irrational thought. However, I then immediately realized that people are often very irrational when it comes to matters of religion.

Take for example the popularly used sentiment, "I just feel it in my heart." This is one of the all time great irrationalities of religion. This is used to justify just about every sort of practice known to man on the planet. However, take this same sentiment into the corporate boardroom and put it in front of a CEO and a board of directors for how to spend money and you will get laughed out of the business. Take a few salesmen and set them before potential clients and tell them to say, "You need to buy my product because I feel in my heart that it is right for you" and they will leave empty handed. The soul is much more valuable than any amount of money to be spent by a busi-

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Kevin's Korner



I am sure that everyone has heard by now that Moises and Maritza are back home safe. We certainly had a tremendous visit with them while they were here. I got a note from Moises in e-mail this past week and he said that the kids were really happy to have them back home. They have started a new school year there and Moises asked us to write to the kids in school. I am going to get the school's addresses and then I will put them in the bulletin so everyone who wants to write a letter to the kids in care of the school may do so. We are truly thankful to God for this great opportunity that we had to be with them.

I wanted to offer a special note of thanks to those who brought some clothes for Aubrey Smith. Aubrey is the son-in-law of Denna Dickey, one of our members here. Aubrey lost his house to a fire a week or so ago. He has insurance, but he did not have very many clothes. I am sure that the clothes we provided will help him in this transition period. Let's remember to pray for this family.

December has five Sunday's in it and this means a couple of things. First, it means that we will be singing at the nursing home at 2:00 on Sunday the 29th. Please make your plans now to be there to sing for those wonderful people. Also, our fifth Sunday contribution is always set aside to be placed in the mission fund so that we can support various mission efforts and projects both local and foreign. Here are two great opportunities for us to contribute to the work of the Lord here at Berryville.

You may have noticed Wednesday night that we have published a calendar of events for next year. That is available to all members. This cal-

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endar is going to help us to be able to plan a little better our various activities of the year. While it is not an obligation for every individual to come to any of these "extra-curricular" activities, we should each make an effort to do what we can to be involved in the activities of the church. There is no more precious body of people on the face of the earth than the church. I want to be with my brethren because I love them and care about their salvation and I will be with them eternally in heaven. We can have a little piece of heaven on the earth by being with our brethren.

I want to thank everyone who offered to take care of our dog while we will be gone on vacation. Our family will be going down to the Central Texas area to stay with our families during the end of the year holidays. We are truly thankful for the opportunity to be able to take this time and go see our folks. The boys are also excited that they will be seeing all of their grandparents as well. Thank you!

I Want to Be a Worker for the Lord

Brandon Britton

"I want to be a worker for the Lord.... I want to sing and pray and be busy everyday....I will work, I will pray, I will labor everyday in the vineyard of the Lord."

This is a great song, with an even greater obligation. Those who sing these verses on Sunday are making the proclamation, "I will work, labor, pray and be busy EVERYDAY doing the Lord's work." While many may sing these words, how many are actually practicing what they are preaching? Based upon what the statistics show, few people are telling the truth when they sing these verses. The Tennessean recently had a front page article detailing the growth rate of various religious groups in Tennessee during the past decade. Churches of Christ in Tennessee grew less than on percent in ten years. [The same could be said of Arkansas. Ed.] To put this statistic into perspective, if all congregations had one hundred members, in the last ten years each congregation would have converted ONE PERSON! When I consider this I find it hard to believe that all who are singing, "I will work, pray and labor everyday" are telling the truth. In other words, they are lying in church.

The church in the first century grew very rapidly because ALL Christians (not just preachers, elders, deacons, visitation team leaders, etc) worked, prayed and labored in the vineyard of the Lord every-day. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.... And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:41-42, 46-47). "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." (Acts 8:4).

“In other words, they are lying in church!”

What was the last thing you actually did for the Lord? Have you visited those needing visiting? Taught those needing teaching? Remember every man will be rewarded according to his works (Matthew 16:27). The night is coming when no man can work (John 9:4). Faith without works is dead (James 2:14ff). The Lord knows if we are working or not (Revelation 2:9, 13).

We may lie when we sing, but the Lord speaks the truth. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15:1, 2). "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2).

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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ness or any product to be sold, yet people often sell their own souls short in matters of religion by expressing this inadequate measurement of truth.

Another great irrationality is this, "If it was good enough for my mother and father, it is good enough for me" or "That is where my family goes, so I just go with them." This is one that I know people use in religion but seldom use in every day life. For example, when someone is asked why they believe a certain doctrine, they might give this sentiment. However, when

it comes to the type of job one has, or the type of car one drives, or the house one lives in, it just isn't good enough. How many would abandon their new cars for the old broken down jalopy that their parents drove years and years ago. How many would abandon their new houses for the old kindling row houses of yesteryear? If anything, Americans live by the principle that parents should create a better life for their children, yet, when it comes to religion that evidently doesn't apply. Again, the soul is so much more valuable than houses, cars, and jobs. Why should we not hold religion to the highest standard of rationality?

How many times have you heard this one, "It doesn't matter what you believe." Whoa! Now there's one that you better not take with you to driving school. That sentiment is just not going to pass there. "I know that sign says 'STOP' but it just doesn't matter what you believe." When is the last time you told a police officer that after he stopped you for speeding. "Officer, I know I was doing 80 in a 35, but you know, after all, it doesn't matter what you believe." I think that you will find a deaf ear when that ticket is written. And don't even try this one in a court of law. "I know I wrote a hot check, judge, but after all, it doesn't matter what you believe." I am sure you will hear

the judge reply, "30 days, and if you don't believe that it is wrong after that amount of time, you can have another 60." However, when it comes to religion, this ranks in the top five excuses for not doing what is right. How much more valuable is the soul! Yet we don't hold those who claim to care for it to the high standards that we hold our driving instructors, law officers and judges.

Each of these sentiments represents a different flavor of irrationality. It is obvious to all that regarding matters of practicality that these sentiments would never be able to

pass. However, when it comes to religion, people expect the irrational. So they excuse themselves in irrational ways. However, the religion of Jesus Christ is NOT irrational. In fact, when Paul went to preach the gospel to others, the scriptures say that he "reasoned" with them (Acts 17:2; 18:4;

"The religion of Jesus Christ is not irrational as popular culture would have you to believe."

18:19; 24:25). We are admonished by Paul to "prove all things" 1 Thess.5:19. John tells us to "try the spirits" (John 4:1). In dealing with matters of religion, we are to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). None of these things involves the types of excuses that are given above. And when it all boils down to it, that is the bottom line, these are just excuses. The religion of Jesus Christ is not irrational as popular culture would have you to believe. God desires us to think and act correctly in regard to His word. There is nothing more valuable or important than one's own soul (Matthew 16:26). We should apply the same exacting standards of rationality toward it as we would toward any other matter of importance in this life. "Come let us reason together, saith the Lord..." (Isaiah 1:8a).

Sunday's Sermons

For December 15th

Morning Way, Truth, Life
Scripture.....John 14:6

Evening The Name church of Christ
Scripture.....Matthew 16:18

Our Record

Week of 12/8

Sunday Class	73
Sunday A.M.....	86
Sunday P.M.	62
Wednesday	68
Contribution.....	\$1554.11

News, Notes and Prayer List



• Welcome to our worship service this morning. If you are visiting with us, please fill out one of the cards and let us get to know you.

- We thank God for the years blessings.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Virgil Butler, Opal Hull.
- Bill Salmon had heart surgery to replace a valve this past Thursday. He is doing well. Bill is Gladys's Kimes brother.
- Betty Salmon, Gladys's sister-in-law had a stint put in. Please pray for her.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- There is a new lunch list posted for Art Roberts in the back. If you have not made lunch for Art, please try to get on that list and help him a little. I know that he appreciates it.
- December has five Sundays. Let's not forget our singing at the nursing home on the 29th!
- Plans were made to have the young people rake leaves today. See Rusty for any updated plans.
- The regularly scheduled elders and deacons meeting will be this evening.
- Our monthly potluck is today! Let's eat!
- On Wednesday, December 18th (that's this coming Wednesday) our young people are asked to come by the church building after school to make fruit baskets and bake cookies. Please get with Tiffany Windle for more info.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Pancake Mix.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	December 15th, 2002	December 22nd, 2002
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Bill Fort
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Ken Smith
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott
Lord's Table:	Clyde Atchley Raymond Kimes	Glenn Quigley Leon Duncan
(assist)	Matt Bassing Larry Elliott	Brent Moore George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clyde Atchley	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth Brent Stevens	Ken Smith Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Clay Bozarth
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Ray Duncan
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Glenn Williams	
Worship Coordinator	Rusty Windle	
Communion Prep	Susan Elliott	Donna Henderson
Communion Carry	Leon Duncan	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 bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

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