



Volume 1, Issue 45

December 22nd, 2002

## Peaceable Fruits

Kevin Cauley

The writer of the book of Hebrews, inspired of the Holy Spirit, wrote, "All chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, *even the fruit of righteousness.*" No one likes to go through difficult times in life. This passage makes it plain that things don't seem to be joyful during difficult times, but full of grief. Grief is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary as "deep mental anguish." Grief comes within our lives at different times and is never convenient. During times of grief we are almost always required to make decisions regarding our lives that we just soon would rather not make. However, we can be assured during our grief that we will become better servants of God as a result of it. We will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Having this promise from God we can hold onto Him during difficult times and reap a great bounty in His service. What are some of these peaceable fruits that we will yield as a result of our faithfulness?

First, grief gives us occasion to understand more about God's love. There was no one on earth who suffered more than God's own Son, Jesus. We read in Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." That statement "Christ died for us" contains more than we will ever comprehend. We know what has been revealed by the Holy Spirit that Jesus prayed in Gethsemane in great anguish, "not my will, but thine be done" (Luke 22:42). He bore the grief of all mankind and took upon Himself the burden of sin for the world (Isaiah 53:4, 5). Of His own free will He went to the cross knowingly and willingly (John 10:18). He endured for a moment in time the rejection of His Father to bear the sins of the

(Continued on page 2)

## Kevin's Korner

This past week we lost a dear sister in Christ and a wonderful friend. Dena Williams passed from this life into eternity this past Thursday morning. Dena's memorial services will be held Friday morning, December 27th, at 10:00 AM here at our building. Susan Elliott and Donna Henderson will be coordinating food for the luncheon to follow the burial.



Dena was one of those people who brought cheer wherever she went. I was privileged to get to know her over the past year. Though afflicted with a chronic disease, she manifested in her life a personal strength that most will never know. She never let her problems define her, but always exhibited a charming and gracious spirit in her personal presence.

Dena really loved to watch the St. Louis Cardinals play baseball. She enjoyed a good movie. She loved to shop. Perhaps her best defining quality, however, was that she was a faithful Christian enamored to her Christian family. Dena lived to see all three of her children baptized into Christ, a goal that many today have yet to realize. Dena supported her husband, Glenn, in ensuring that the adult Bible classes and sermons were taped each week. Her service in this regard is invaluable for Christ's cause. She faithfully attended the services with the saints and provided a great example for all who knew her.

I got to know Dena more personally this past Thanksgiving when we were invited to her house for lunch. While Dena wasn't a fan of pumpkin pie, she did enjoy a good Mrs. Smith's apple pie. She baked a delicious turkey with all the "fixins." After lunch, we watched the Bald Eagles perch in the trees near her house. A great Christian woman; a wonderful hostess; a dear wife and mother; she did not gain great notoriety or worldly fame, but lived a godly life which was truly beautiful (1 Peter 3:4).

(Continued from page 1)

world (Mark 15:34; 2 Corinthians 5:21). When we grieve, we understand more how much love God has for us.

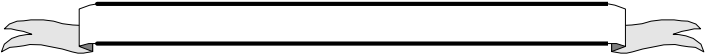
Second, grief helps the Christian to realize that this life is only temporary. Grief, suffering, and pain are things that are endemic to our physical bodies and our physical bodies are temporal. James writes, "What is your life? For ye are a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). Paul says that the physical body is corruptible, dishonorable, weak, natural and earthy (1 Corinthians 15:42-49). He says that it is perishing on a daily basis (2 Corinthians 4:16). This weak, natural, decaying body is only temporary, but there is coming a day when we will no longer have this body, but one full of power, glory, honor—a spiritual body, a body that will last forever (1 Corinthians 15:42-49). And that the "light afflictions" which we endure for this moment works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17). In this body, there will be no more sorrow, anguish, toil, grief, or pain (Revelation 20:4). Grief helps us to realize that this life is only temporary and that there is a better life coming for the faithful.

Third, grief helps us to understand what is truly joyous. There is something to be said for the expression, "All sunshine makes a desert." If one never experiences in one's life dark times, one will not truly understand what joyous times are. David, the sweet singer of Israel, had more hard times in his life than many will ever face in our day, yet out of all of the writers of the Old Testament, he and the other Psalmists wrote more concerning joy than any other. Some of their words are, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11). "Sing praise unto Jehovah, O ye saints of his, And give thanks to his holy memorial name. For his anger is but for a moment; His favor is for a life-time: Weeping may tarry for the night, But joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:4, 5). "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:5, 6). Who can know joy without some measure of grief?

Finally, grief helps us to be able to serve others. It was said of Jesus that he is able to be a faithful and merciful high priest to us due to the things which He suffered (Hebrews 2:17, 18). Truly those who have suffered are able to comfort those who are suffering. Paul writes in 2 Corin-

thians 1:3, 4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them that are in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." When we suffer affliction ourselves, we will be able to help others who are suffering and this brings glory to God because He is the ultimate source of all comfort.

Here, at least, are a few "peaceable fruits" that we can glean from our own personal sufferings and grief: 1) A deeper understanding of God's love, 2) A greater understanding of the brevity of life and its associated sorrows, 3) A better ability to discern that which is truly joyous, and 4) the ability to be a better servant in God's vineyard. Through these peaceable fruits of righteousness, we can bring more souls to salvation, build up the church which Jesus built, and further the cause of Christ. The Hebrew writer further exhorts with these words, "Wherefore lift up the hands that hang down, and the palsied knees; and make straight paths for your feet, that that which is lame be not turned out of the way, but rather be healed" (Hebrews 12:12, 13). Let each of us resolve to understand God's purpose for grief and sorrow and to live according to His great purposes for our life each and every day.



## Sunday's Sermons

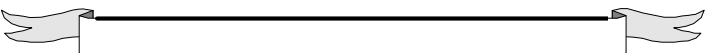
For 12/22/02

**Morning .....The Promises of God**

Scripture.....Acts 13:29-33

**Evening .....In The Resurrection**

Scripture..... 1 John 3:2



**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

# The God of All Comfort

*David Deffenbaugh*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Who has not felt the need for comfort from God? Heartache...pain...death...illness...disappointment...the list goes on. It is of utmost importance to realize that God is the source of comfort. It is also important to realize how God provides that comfort. Unfortunately, many people live under the impression that if God does something, He must do it by extraordinary means. To the contrary, Scripture teaches that God's work, more often than not, is done by the very "ordinary" means.

The remainder of the first chapter of 2 Corinthians gives us several insights into ways God is able to provide comfort.

The affliction of others. "But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort..." (verse 6). There is indeed a comfort to be felt where we know for certain the truthfulness of one who says, "I know just how you feel." No doubt, the affliction of shared persecution was one of the great forces helping to bind the early church together.

The prayers of others. "And he will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers (verses 10b-11a). Knowing "the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (James 5:16), it is indeed comforting to realize that righteous men are offering petitions to God on behalf of one's suffering.

The promises of God. "For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yet" (verse 20). Jesus is the affirmation, the "Amen," of the promises of God, promises such as that our "momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Suffering and affliction of the heart, body, and soul are quite real. The realization of the need for comfort is most acute in the midst of suffering. May we remember not only from whom our comfort comes, but the means by which the God of all comfort provides it.

*David Deffenbaugh preaches for the Lord's church in Talequah, OK.*

*From the Voice of Truth International*

# This God Can Do

*Glenn E. Wagoner*

If God can hang the stars on high,  
Can paint the clouds that drift on by,  
Can swing the sun across the sky,  
What can he Do for you?

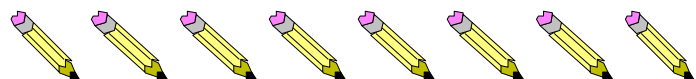
If He can send a storm through space,  
And dot with tress the mountains face,  
If he the sparrow's course can trace,  
What can He do for you?

If God can send us sunny days,  
And nature from her slumber raise,  
Till song birds lift their notes of praise,  
What can He do for you?

If God can do all these things,  
Can count each little bird that sings,  
Control the universe that swings,  
What can He do for you?

If God can bring sweet peace to me,  
By Christ, Who hung upon a tree,  
And to my soul bring liberty,  
This He can do for you!

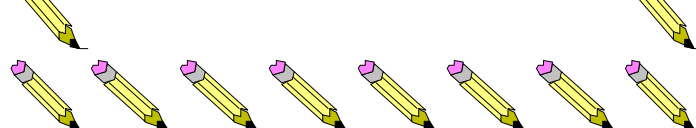
*Via the Voice of Truth International*



## Our Record

**Week of 12/15**

Sunday Class .....	74
Sunday A.M.....	85
Sunday P.M. ....	60
Wednesday .....	63
Contribution.....	\$1457.90



## News, Notes and Prayer List



- We welcome all of our visitors today to our worship services. Please let us get to know you!
- We extend our deepest sympathies to the Williams' family at the loss of Dena this past week.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Virgil Butler, Opal and Curtis Hull, Bill Salmon.
- 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 for Art Roberts posted in the back. Please sign up to make lunch for Art.
- Please don't forget our singing at the nursing home on December 29th. Everyone there really enjoys us coming to sing with them.
- Also remember that next Sunday is our fifth Sunday giving for our missions work. Please make plans to give accordingly.
- We want to thank everyone who came out to help put together and deliver the fruit baskets. They were much appreciated.
- Helen Swink sent the congregation a card regarding the condition of her son. It is posted in the back foyer.
- We want to thank everyone who contributed clothing to Aubrey Smith. Aubrey's house burned down a couple of weeks ago.
- Volume thirty-six of the Voice of Truth International is in the foyer. Please pick up your copy today. This periodical has excellent basic Bible studies.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Bar Soap.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>December 22nd, 2002</b>	<b>December 29th, 2002</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Ralph Hunter
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
<b>Scripture:</b>	Larry Elliott	Brandon Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Matt Bassing
	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
<b>(assist)</b>	Brent Moore	Raymond Kimes
	George Eddings	Brent Moore
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Bruce Foster	Brent Stevens
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Bruce Foster	Brent Stevens
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Ralph Hunter
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Leon Duncan	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Dale Pinkley
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Ken Smith	Bruce Foster
	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Glenn Quigley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Ray Duncan	Ray Duncan
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Kevin Cauley	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Rusty Windle	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Susan Elliott	Donna Henderson
<b>Communion Carry</b>	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 [bvccoc@alltel.net](mailto:bvccoc@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**