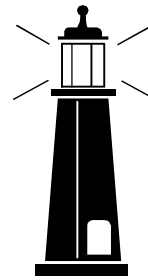


The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 5

February 2nd, 2003

When Tragedy Strikes

Kevin Cauley

No doubt, everyone has heard of the national tragedy in our space program. The space shuttle Columbia, upon reentry to earth's atmosphere, experienced a problem and disintegrated over Eastern Texas. The astronauts did not survive.

Tragedies like this make us feel small, weak, and helpless. And this is an accurate assessment of what we truly are without God. Isaiah wrote, "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6). However, when we lean upon God and acknowledge Him as the sovereign ruler of the universe there is hope. There is hope because God can take our smallness, our weakness, and our helplessness and change it into something powerful. Paul records for us in 2 Corinthians 12:9 the Lord's words regarding personal weakness: "My strength is made perfect in weakness."

At times like these we wonder what to say and what to think to our friends and neighbors. Certainly it is important for us to pray for these families and friends. However, the greatest message of hope that we can offer is that of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we acknowledge our frailties and dependence upon God we tap into a source of power so great and vast that it beyond all that we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). This power comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16) and it is man's only hope for salvation today (Acts 4:12).

So what do we say to our friends and neighbors? We say, pray for the friends and families of those who lost their loved ones. We say that there is blessed hope in Christ. We say that God can take our weaknesses and make them strengths and we plead, ever so lovingly and tenderly, to allow God's will to rule in your heart and in your mind for without Him we are nothing.

Kevin's Korner



I want to personally thank everyone who came out to the open house last week. We had a really enjoyable time visiting with each other. Each of your presences were exhorting and comforting. Mary Lynn and I certainly feel at home here and working with the congregation this past year has been great. So again, I say "thank you" to everyone who has done so much to support me and my family. I look forward to this next year which I am sure is going to be equally if not more great.

This past Monday I was privileged to play a little golf with Scott Dewbre and some others from the community. We had a good time and I got to meet some new people. Thanks Scott for asking me to go.

The youth devotional scheduled for this evening will be at our house. We are happy to host this event. On the menu for the evening will be Sloppy Joes. If your diet does not include this type of meal, please let Mary Lynn know this morning and we will be happy to arrange something special for you. We ask, as always, that everyone bring drinks, chips, desserts, and CHOCOLATE!!!

I hope to see some smiling faces today! As I have been mentioning, I want to start collecting some digital photographs of the members of the congregation. It would be good if we could get both individuals and family members. There are a plethora of things for which we can use these pictures. If today is not a good day to have your picture taken, we can plan for the following weeks as all of February we will try to get everyone in. If today is a good day, then let me know after services and I will go ahead and get your picture.

There are a few more Q&A books left if you would like to pick one up. There will be a review in the paper regarding this book. Please use this book as a tool for evangelism in our community.

The Sin of Absenteeism

Kevin Cauley

Of the many different characteristics of the church there is that of being the body of Christ. Perhaps this metaphor is most illustrative in one of Paul's letters to Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 12:14-16, Paul writes, "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?" In verse 27 of the same chapter we read, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." We are all members of a great body--Christ's body--the church. Each one of us has a special role to play within the body of Christ. Every single one of us is important. Every single one of us is necessary.

The illustration Paul uses is this: think about the church as if it were your own personal body. Are there any parts of your body that are not necessary? One time I had an ingrown toenail on my big toe. I tried to fix the problem myself with a pocket-knife, but ended up making things worse. I finally decided that I needed to go to the doctor and have something done about it because it was starting to change colors. That doctor cut off half of my toenail just to fix that one little problem and it affected my entire body for several weeks. Who would have thought that half of a toenail was that important? When we look through the eyes of the Spirit, we see that every single member of the church is important and that for us to remove ourselves from that body causes harm to the body. Spiritually we may be no more than half a toenail, but when we leave the body, we hurt the entire body.

With these thoughts in mind, let us consider Hebrews 10:24-26. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins...." The writer of the book of Hebrews is writing to Christians who are being tempted to leave the church. His message to these is, "Don't you realize what

you are doing to the body of Christ?" When you leave the church, you discourage the church. However, when you attend the services, you encourage the church. The very presence of our members exhorts us to do at least two things: 1) Love one another, and 2) Encourage one another toward good works. When we commit the sin of absenteeism, we say two things to our brethren: 1) I don't love you and 2) I don't want you to do good works. How can this not hurt our brethren? How can this not hurt the church? How can this not hinder the progress of the gospel? Absenteeism is a sin and it is a sin that hurts the church.

This passage, however, says that absenteeism not only hurts the church, it hurts the individual Christian who is absent. Notice that the writer says immediately following the exhortation not to practice absenteeism, that those who sin willfully have no more sacrifice for sin. In other words, the sin of absenteeism causes us to lose our salvation. Really, the choice to attend the assembling of the saints is a choice that is either something we are going to do because we want to do it

"The Holy Spirit says that this is willful sin and that as a result of this we can expect our sins to remain with us and Christ's sacrifice to be ineffectual."

or because we don't want to do it. I am not talking about being sick or taking care of another who is sick. I am speaking of the situation when there are no hindrances to our being with our fellow Christians to worship God and we deliberately choose not to go. The Holy Spirit says that this

is willful sin and that as a result of that we can expect 1) our sins to remain with us and 2) Christ's sacrifice to be ineffectual for us. The result is that it not only hurts the church, it hurts us.

There is a story about a man who wrote a letter
(Continued on page 3)

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

A FULL DOSE!

Carl Hansen

This past year, there was a pharmacist who was guilty of watering down cancer drug prescriptions and pocketing the profits. This meant that those relying on these treatments were not getting the FULLY PRESCRIBED amount. I don't recall how many people were affected by this pharmacist's actions, but it was significant. Yet, even if it had just been a few, it still would have been wrong and potentially fatal for these patients to have not received the adequate dosage to combat their cancer. The diluted drugs could not have the full impact they were PRESCRIBED to provide.

Someone has said, "The Bible must not be deleted or diluted." [source: "1600 Squibs And Quips", compiled by E. C. McKenzie]

When God gave His commands to Moses, they were delivered to the nation of Israel with the warning that they were to be neither added to nor subtracted from. (Deuteronomy 4:2) And in Revelation we find the same warning regarding what God had revealed. (Revelation 22:18-19) Paul gave a similar admonition to the church at Corinth when he exhorted them to not go beyond what was written. (1 Corinthians 4:6)

Even in Proverbs we have this caution, "(5) EVERY WORD OF GOD IS FLAWLESS; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (6) DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, OR HE WILL REBUKE YOU AND PROVE YOU A LIAR." (Proverbs 30:5-6)

The word translated "flawless" in the NIV is a Hebrew word associated with smelting and refining. In other translations we find it given as "pure" (KJV), "tried" (ASV) and "true" (NRSV). Why would one want to either mix in or dilute that which is the tried and true, pure wisdom from God? What is there that could possibly make that which is "flawless" better?

It should be clear from these passages in

Sunday's Sermons

For February 2nd

Morning **Why Run the Race**
 Scripture Hebrews 12:1-13
Evening **Money and Wealth**
 Scripture 1 Timothy 6:6-10

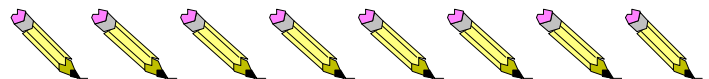
both the Old and New Testaments that God's intent has always been for His Word to be accepted as it is. To alter it in any way will lessen God's intended impact in our life and therefore affect our spiritual health. Deleted or diluted, God's Word will not have the full impact God has PRESCRIBED it to have in our life. Sin and false teaching will take hold and begin to spread as a "cancer" in our lives if we fail to take in God's Word in its purity.

Let us accept what God has PRESCRIBED for our lives. The Author and Sustainer of life knows exactly what we need and has provided it to be taken in. May we continually take in a good daily dose.

Have a great day ACCEPTING GOD'S CURE FOR THE SIN SICK SOUL!

(Continued from page 2)

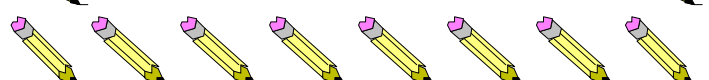
ter to the editor complaining of attending services. He stated, "I have been to some 3000 worship services and can hardly remember what the preacher preached on last week." Another reader responded to this criticism by stating the following, "I have eaten some 32,000 meals in my lifetime and cannot remember what I ate last week." The point is this, just as those 32,000 meals sustained that individual over a period of time, so also the regular feasting upon God's word will sustain an individual. What would quickly happen were one to give up eating regular meals? One would grow sick and eventually die. So too when one practices absenteeism, one will grow sick spiritually and ultimately die spiritually. And if every individual in the Lord's church decided upon this course of action, there would be no church left to attend. Let us resolve not to allow the sin of absenteeism to mar our spiritual lives and damage the church of our Lord.



Our Record

Week of 1/26

Sunday Class	59
Sunday A.M.....	69
Sunday P.M.	59
Wednesday	55
Contribution.....	\$1754.48
Budget	\$1760.00



News, Notes and Prayer List



• We welcome all of our visitors to our worship services today. Please fill out a visitors card and stay after services for a few minutes so we can get to know you better!

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Toley Hart, Jo Nimmo, Kendra Smith, Grace Windle, Braden Stevens.
- 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.
- Sunday night we will have our youth devotional at Kevin and Mary Lynn's house. Please bring chips, drinks, and desserts and chocolate for Rusty.
- We will have a VBS meeting next Sunday night after services to consider VBS material.
- We have a Valentines day party scheduled for Saturday February 15th. It will be a potluck supper party at the building. Please see Brent and Shawna Stevens for details.
- Next Sunday evening will be our questions and answers night. Please submit your questions to the question box this week.
- This coming Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. Please make plans to attend.
- If you are ready to have your picture taken today, please let me (Kevin) know.
- If you would like to volunteer to help clean the building, please get with Brent Stevens.
- There are a few more Q&A books left if you need one.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Green Beans.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	February 2nd, 2003	February 9th, 2003
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth	Bill Fort
	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
(assist)	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
	Matt Bassing	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Bruce Foster	Matt Bassing
Lord's Table:	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
	Ray Duncan	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Ken Smith	
Worship Coordinator	Bill Fort	
Communion Prep	Gladys Kimes	Pam Pinkley
Communion Carry	John Gass	Rusty Windle

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.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
Berryville Church of Christ
909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616