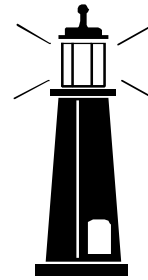


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon

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



Volume 2, Issue 24

June 15th, 2003

Are You An Accessory to Sin?

Kevin Cauley

Within the legal code of the various states within the U.S.A., one may be found guilty of being an accessory to a particular crime. If one supplies a murderer with a weapon knowing what the intent of the murderer is, then one will be found guilty of being an accessory to murder. If a person drives the get away car for a bank robbery, then he will be found guilty of being an accessory to the crime of robbery. There is also the crime of aiding and abetting a known felon that in essence is a crime of accessory. The law clearly makes provision to punish those who may have not commit the actual crime itself, but are involved to such a degree that the crime could not happen without their influence. Such a person is called an accessory to the crime and is held accountable and often punished for helping another do something that is wrong.

As Christians, the crimes that we are concerned about avoiding are not merely against men, but against God. Such crimes against God are referred to in the Bible as sin. Isaiah states that sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). James writes that sin when it is full-grown brings death (James 1:15). And Paul states that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). The Holy Spirit makes it clear through these inspired men that sin leads to eternal separation from God and that sin is, therefore, serious and deadly business. Just as being an accessory to a crime is in itself a crime, so also being an accessory to sin is in itself a sin.

How does the Bible say that we can be an accessory to sin? One of the first passages that comes to mind is 2 John 10 and 11. In this passage, John writes to a Christian woman telling her not to receive false teachers into her house. There was nothing wrong with receiving strangers

into one's house to care for them as they were traveling through town. In fact, Hebrews 13:2 states that when Christian's practice such they are acting in a way approved by the Holy Spirit. However, when receiving a false teacher into one's home, the situation is different. John states in verse 11 that when one does this, one is partaking of that false teacher's evil deeds. There is a difference between doing something that is right to support that which is right and doing something that would otherwise be right to support that which is wrong. The Holy Spirit says that the latter is sin. When we give aid and comfort to false teachers, that is being an accessory to sin.



A Christian can also be an accessory to sin by approving that which is wrong. We read in 1 Corinthians 5:1 that there was fornication among the church at Corinth. The response of the members of the church at Corinth was not to condemn that which was wrong, but to be proud about it (1 Corinthians 5:2). In other words, the church at Corinth was, through their attitude of pride concerning the fornicator, approving his action of fornication. Paul wrote in verse 6 that their "glorying" was not good. It was evil and they should not have been doing this. No doubt, many of the Corinthian Christians who were "glorying" in this man's sin were not committing that sin themselves. Yet, because they were "glorying" in it, they were committing sin themselves—the sin of approving of something that is evil. Paul states in Romans 1:32 that not only are those who practice evil worthy of death due to their sin, but those who approve of such things are equally worthy of death due to their sin of approval.

Finally, a Christian can also be an accessory to sin by providing service to that which is sinful. John writes in 1 John 2:10 "He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him." The one who loves will not provide an occasion of stumbling in another. The opposite is also true, the one who sets forth an

occasion of stumbling before another does not love him. And, when one does not love his neighbor, he violates what Jesus calls the second command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39).

Providing service to that which is sinful is of itself a sin. It would be a sin to give an idol to the idolater though you yourself may not worship it. It would be a sin to provide a fornicator a prostitute, though you yourself may not commit fornication. It would be a sin to give drugs to an addict, though you yourself may not do drugs. It would be a sin to serve alcohol to a drunkard, though you yourself may not drink at all. It would be a sin to take a gambler to a slot machine, though you yourself may not gamble. At the least, a person who acted in such a way would be a hypocrite. Paul writes in Romans 12:9, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." When we act out of a non-hypocritical love toward our fellow man, we will not encourage him to engage in sinfulness by providing the means of his sin. Instead, we will abhor what is evil. Abhorring something means that we put it as far away from us as possible. If we serve evil, we fail to abhor evil.

At the most, the person who serves those who sin, while not actually performing the evil act himself, is participating in the evil act through his influence. In the first part of the book of Revelation, Jesus speaks directly to the seven churches of Asia through John. To the church at Pergamos Jesus said, "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication" (Revelation 2:14). Jesus had something "against" this church. They were guilty of the doctrine of Balaam. What was that doctrine? The verse says that he "taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel." Balaam's sin was not that he worshipped idols or committed fornication, but that encouraged others to do this through his influence. The incident to which this verse is referring is found in Numbers 25:1-7. An interesting fact in this regard is that Balaam had already left the proverbial "scene of the crime." In Numbers 24:25 we read, "Then Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place...." Yet, although Balaam was not present during the activities of Numbers 25, we see later that he was killed with the sword because of his transgression (Numbers 31:8) and that Moses held him personally responsible for the evil that had come upon the children of Israel (Numbers 31:16). Jesus stated to the church at Pergamos

that Balaam was guilty of sin purely because he used his influence for evil and that the church at Pergamos was guilty as well because they taught his doctrine. How can we say that we are pure when we use our influence for evil? Jesus directly condemns such thinking.

Let us resolve not to be an accessory to sin whether we are supporting a false teacher, approving that which is wrong, or providing service to that which is sinful. Our end will be no different than those who practice the sin itself.

I HAVE DONE VERY FOOLISHLY

Roger D. Campbell

Most of us have done some pretty silly things in life, and after we did them we felt so foolish. How about throwing away a fresh piece of gum and sticking the wrapper in your mouth, ever try that one? What about sitting a plastic container on top of a hot burner? Or, pouring gasoline into a container that has holes in the bottom of it so the gasoline just runs right out on the ground? Maybe you haven't done any of things that I just mentioned, but some time or another all of us goof up. It's part of life. We may have gotten down on ourselves for a while when we did such silly things, but eventually we got over them (didn't we?). We all recognize, though, that other foolish mistakes in life carry far more reaching consequences.

Not long before the end of his life, despite the objection from Joab, the leader of his army, King David carried out his plan "to number the people of Israel" (2 Samuel 24:4). When the final tally came in, however, the king was not at all happy with himself for having given the order to count the Israelites. Here is God's record of David's reaction: "*And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly*" (2 Samuel 24:10).

David made a lot of good choices in his life, but his decision to number the Israelites was not one of them. According to David's own words, he sinned. Because of his iniquity, his conscience bothered him (his heart "smote" him). He did not try to

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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

hide his sin. He admitted it. He sought God's forgiveness. He realized and confessed that his action was foolish – "I have done foolishly." To see and point out the foolish actions of others, why that is not a problem for many of us. However, when it comes to recognizing and correcting our own foolish conduct, well, that is another matter. Let's look further.

David is not the only person that has ever called his own action "foolish." After Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses (and in essence, murmured against God's arrangement and the authority that He had given to Moses), Aaron admitted to Moses, "Alas, my Lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned" (Numbers 12:10). Foolish, indeed, was the conduct of Aaron and his sister on that occasion. The apostle Paul, looking back at his life before he became a follower of the Christ and speaking in the plural, said, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish." And what did he go on to include in that life of foolishness? ". . . disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another" (Titus 3:3). Yes, in Paul's life without the Christ he had "done very foolishly."

Because we are human, all of us make mistakes. Some of our mistakes are transgressions of God law, and such transgressions are sin (1 Jo.3:4; Rom.3:23). Today some people, like David of old, realize that they have conducted themselves foolishly in the past. Untold multitudes of people have not taken care of their physical bodies, and they now face the consequences of such neglect. They look in the mirror and tell it like it is, "I have done very foolishly." Many husbands now realize that they horribly mistreated their wives in the past and openly admit, "I have done very foolishly." Perhaps some of them now find themselves divorced because of their misconduct. Others are blessed to have a forgiving wife that has graciously remained with them. In days gone by some saints of God put all of their heart, time, and energy into making money. They now see the folly of such an approach to life and appropriately confess, "I have done very foolishly." Some members of the body of the Christ have lived unfaithfully for decades. When they sing, "Lord, I'm Coming Home," they can honestly say, "I've wasted many precious years." There is still hope for those that, like the sweet singer of ancient Israel was, are pricked in their heart and desire to turn to the Lord in repentance and obedience. Jesus told of one son that "when he came to himself, he said . . . Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight . . ." (Luke 15:17,21). When that man saw that he had done very foolishly, he arose and did something about it.

Sunday's Sermons

For June 15th

Morning **Repentance**
 Scripture Luke 24:47, 48
Evening **Q&A**
 Scripture NA

Look at some examples of those whom the Lord described as acting foolishly. Asa, king of Judah, when he was facing a battle with the Northern Kingdom, appealed to the king of Syria to make a covenant with him and help save him from the hand of his enemies. God's prophet Hanani told Asa, "Because thou has relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God . . . Herein thou has done foolishly" (2 Chronicles 16:7,9). Sadly, instead of humbling himself in submission before Jehovah, Asa was furious and locked up the prophet (16:10). As if such action (shall we say temper tantrum) could change the truth that God's messenger had spoken! At one point the churches of Galatia walked faithfully with the Master. Then, someone bewitched them, influencing them to stop obeying the truth (Galatians 5:7). Because of their lack of steadfastness, Paul by the Spirit called them "foolish Galatians" (Galatians 3:1). Jesus said that a person that hears His words but does not carry them out is like "a foolish man" that builds his house on the sand (Matthew 7:24).

Those that have "done very foolishly" by sinning against the Lord can make one of two choices. They can just ignore what they have done and go on as if nothing ever happened, or, they can do like David did and humbly turn to the Lord for forgiveness. The time to correct our past foolish thoughts, words, or actions is right now. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). There will come a time when it will be too late to acknowledge and correct our foolish behavior. Remember Jesus' parable of the ten virgins? When the bridegroom came, five of those friends that were supposed to wait for him "were foolish" (Matthew 25:2). What was foolish about them? They were unprepared for the bridegroom's coming. As a result, when those five foolish folks tried to later get in to the marriage feast, the bridegroom told them, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (25:12), and with those words they were turned away. Wow. How horrible to hear such words! How horrible to be unprepared! How horrible on the Day of Judgment to have to admit, "I have done very foolishly," only to realize that THEN it will be too late for any self-evaluation to be of any help and THEN it will be too late for any correction to take place. Brothers and sisters, if you and I have been acting foolishly in any area of life, we need to do all within our power to correct such and do so before the opportunity escapes us!

Our Record

Week of June 8th

Sunday Class	73
Sunday A.M.	111
Sunday P.M.	61
Wednesday	58
Contribution	\$2085.63
Budget.....	\$1760.00

Kevin's Korner

Wasn't our friends and family day this past Sunday great?! We had one hundred and eleven people at our morning worship service. This is the highest that I have seen our attendance. We have several who have followed up with others that have said they are going to return again because of the positive experience that they had. You, as the congregation, are to be commended. You made this happen. You got out there and invited others and made an effort to evangelize. I know that I am happy with the wonderful events of this past Sunday. I know that the eldership is happy with these events. I know that the LORD is happy with these events. Now comes the critical part. Let's continue to follow up with these folks and let them know that we continue to love them and that they are special to us. We have an opportunity to do good with them. Let us seize that opportunity and make the most of it. Sow the seed; water it a little, and God will give the increase (1 Cor.3:6)!

We have a Vacation Bible School before us! "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" is our theme for this week. We have a goal of having an average of 100 in attendance for the entire VBS. Let's try to meet this goal and exceed it. I know that if you get out and invite others as you did for the friends and family day that we will do WELL! Our teachers have been preparing to teach and they are ready! Let me take a brief minute to commend them for their efforts. These teachers spend a lot of time outside the classroom getting things ready for this opportunity to study God's word. They love the Lord and they want their students to understand God's word. Each teacher is to be commended for their hard work and dedication to God. Let's pray for them this week as we enter this VBS that many hearts and minds and souls will be touched by the gospel of Christ.

These past two weeks have been busy. We will have a break for several weeks and then we will start working to organize our upcoming youth rally to be held August 22nd, and 23rd here in Berryville. Our speaker for this event will be Willie Franklin. I will let Brent correct me if I misheard, but I believe that our theme for the youth rally will be "More Than Conquerors." This theme is taken from Romans 8:37 and it is a wonderful thought. I know that brother Franklin will do an excellent job with this topic. Let us continue to pray for our upcoming youth rally as well.

Let me remind everyone that June has five Sunday's in it. This means that on Sunday, June 29th, we will have our quarterly singing at the

nursing home. Now, the last time we sang at the nursing home, we sang in the cafeteria and that went well. This time, they have the regular room all ready for us. So we will be singing in the usual location. I know that these folks love to come and to sing with us. They love to sing those gospel songs and this is a great way for us to minister to them. Won't you come out and join us for this time of song and worship? The fifth Sunday of this month, June 29th, at 2:00 PM at Berryville's nursing home.

Well, as many of you know, at the end of this week my family and I will be taking our annual family vacation. This year we are going to the Grand Canyon in Arizona. We will leave early Friday morning (June 20th) at about 5:00 AM and then we will be back here in Berryville on Saturday (June 28th). We have been planning for this trip for quite some time now. There is food to buy. There is money to save. There is clothing to wear. We have to have a place to sleep and all of the other little details that go into planning a trip like this. Having said that, let me say that I feel like we have planned more for this trip than for any other that we have ever taken before. I am confident that this is going to be a good vacation!

While this is a vacation for our family from the everyday happenings in Berryville, it will not be a vacation from the Lord. We plan on worshipping in Flagstaff, AZ while we are away. We will make sure that we take care of any financial business with our home congregation before we leave. We will not live in such a way while we are away that those who view our behavior will think that we are anything less than Christians!

There are some who think that when they go on vacation, they can just take a vacation from God as well. They skip worship. They fail in their contribution. They live no differently from the world while they are away, "After all," they rationalize, "no one knows who we are." That kind of thinking is just false! God knows who you are. He is always with you. You cannot take a vacation from Him.

The Christian who thinks like this surely is not consistent in his application. If there were to be problems on the vacation with their health, surely they would pray to God for remedy. If there were something they needed, surely they would call on the local church. If you expect God to be on your side, you need to be on His.

As the time for vacations draws near for our family and others, let us remember that we are first and foremost Christians regardless of where we are. Let us seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness regardless (Matthew 6:33).

A CHURCH VAN AND A BEER TRUCK

Charles Box

A few days ago I was returning to my office after an evening of visitation. At a traffic light two blocks from our building I was second in line. In front of me there was a beer truck. What a contrast -- a church van and a beer truck.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN MESSAGE. On the back of the beer truck there was an advertisement for "Miller Beer" and the words "Miller Brewing Company." On the back of the church van there are the words "The churches of Christ greet you." (Romans 16:16.) One is a message leading to damnation, the other a message leading to salvation.

The liquor industry cares nothing for the souls of men. Their concern is only for material gain. Churches of Christ care deeply for the souls of men. They desire all to become Christians.

A Christian is a person who has died to sin, been buried with Christ in baptism and arisen to a new life in Christ. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:1-4.) Christ is "All and in all" to the Christian. (Col. 3:11.)

Which message do you heed? If you have been listening to the damnable message of the liquor industry why not become a Christian and then live faithfully the Christian life?

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN OWNERSHIP: The beer truck is the property of the Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin or one of its subsidiaries. The church van is property of the Walnut Street Church of Christ, Greenville, Alabama. This means the church van really belongs to the God of the universe. "For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills." (Psa. 50:10.) One owner cares nothing for man's salvation. The other is totally devoted to the salvation of the lost.

God cared so much for mankind that He allowed Jesus to suffer sin's penalty in man's place. "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) The gospel shows God's devotion to the salvation of the lost.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN PURPOSE. The purpose of the beer truck is to make money at all cost. The damage to society is a matter of no concern to the beer makers. The sole purpose of the beer truck is "the love of money." "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:10.)

The purpose of the church van is service and salvation. Many personal evangelism visits have been made in that van.

People have been brought to the worship assemblies in that van. Some have been brought to the waters of baptism in that van. Many have been carried to doctors. Young people have been blessed and encouraged as they were driven to Christian camps, youth meetings, or gospel meetings in that van.

The beer truck has the purpose of money making and soul damnation. The church van has the purpose of serving God and man.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN PRODUCT. The product carried by the beer truck is so destructive that the owner will not allow the driver of their truck to use the product he is delivering while driving their truck. They are aware that he is a much safer driver while not using their product than when using it. They know he represents their company much better sober than after having used their product.

On the other hand the owner of the church van insists the driver use His product. He is a better driver, a better representative of God's cause and he makes the world better by the practice of Christianity. The product offered by one makes the driver a better person while the product offered by the other makes their driver a worse person.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN RESULT. Alcohol in action is destructive and damnable. The liquor industry goes "all out" to get money, regardless of the cost in lost jobs, highway deaths, broken homes, murders, rapes, destruction in society and jails filled with "the finished product of the brewers art."

Alcohol is America's number one drug problem. After Denver had won their second Super Bowl there was trouble. Some people got out of control. They burned things and threw bricks through windows. The newscasters wonder why? I asked my class in Butler County Jail -- why? They said, "You know how a bunch of drunks are!"

Alcohol is not some beneficial product misused by a few unthinking people. It is a habit -- forming depressant drug which destroys brain cells and wreaks havoc in society. The product on the beer truck brings that terrible result. Beer companies do not really make Bud Weiser they make Bud stupider and society worse!

Christianity, the product promoted by the owner of the church van, really does make Bud, and all others who will accept it, wiser. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (Jas. 3:17.) They have salvation in Christ. (Eph. 1:7.) They have peace and joy here and hope hereafter.

Christianity encourage others to hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17), believe in Jesus (Jn. 20:30-31), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ as the Son of God (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). A person who is "in Christ" will live "soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." (Tit. 2:12.)

Hear again the words of the Bible, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 5:18-20.) There is just one final thought -- I am glad I was driving the church van and not the beer truck!

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Porfirio and Carla, Bruce Foster.

- We express our sympathies to the family of Charlotte Eddings at the passing of her mother Delma Johnson late this past week. Family visitation will be Monday evening from 5-8 PM at Nelson's. Memorial services will be at Living Faith Church Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM.

- We are thrilled to announce that Loretta Williams has made the decision to be a part of this congregation and to work and worship with us under the oversight of the eldership here at the Berryville church of Christ. Loretta has already been a GREAT encouragement to us here and she will continue to be so, I am sure. Let's welcome her into our fellowship!!!
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Don't forget VBS this week!!!
- There is a gospel meeting at Cape Fair, MO starting this next weekend, June 22nd. All are invited.
- Remember to keep our upcoming youth rally in our prayers scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd.
- Our fifth Sunday singing at the nursing home will be the last Sunday of this month. Please make your plans to attend this wonderful event.
- The elders and deacons meeting will be held tonight after evening services.
- Please note that there will be no bulletin next week.
- Questions and answers will be tonight instead of the regular 2nd Sunday.
- The Pantry Item for this week is "Panned Caches."



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	June 15th, 2003	June 22nd, 2003
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Clyde Atchley
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	TBA
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Matt Bassing	John Gass
Lord's Table:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
	Larry Elliott	Ken Smith
(assist)	Sandy Nieves	Matt Bassing
	John Gass	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	TBA
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Hugh Atchley
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Sandy Nieves	John Gass
	Brent Stevens	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	VBS	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	VBS	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	VBS	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	VBS	Dale Pinkley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Williams	
Communion Prep	Neva Welch	Donna Henderson
Communion Carry	Dale Pinkley	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 to contribute information.

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