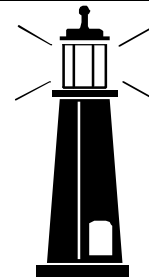


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

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The Real Dead Heads

Kevin Cauley

Last year our missionary from Costa Rica and his wife came and visited the United States. While they were visiting, the editor of the religious section of the local newspaper wrote an article regarding their work. During the interview, the gentleman asked what would be the appropriate titles for both the missionary and myself. I told him that we had no titles, but that we were just Christians who were fulfilling our duties to God. If he wanted to describe us as something, we could be called preachers, teachers, or evangelists but not in the capacity of a title. He seemed rather brushed at this suggestion and stated to us that the Associated Press requires the head of every church to have a title to conform to their journalistic writing standards. We insisted that he not use any titles and that neither one of us were the head of any church. This true story should illustrate to us the misunderstanding of many. When one of the writing standards of the Associated Press assumes the head of the church to be an earthly individual it should be obvious that the doctrine of the headship of Christ is being seriously neglected today. Moreover, there are many who fervently believe that the head of their "church" is some human. This is reflected in the titles that are assigned to them: President, Pope, Pastor, Pontificate, etc. The Bible teaches no such thing regarding the head of the church.

What does the Bible have to say regarding the head of the church? We read in Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body." In Ephesians 1:22 we read, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church." There is no confusion within the Bible as to who is the head of the church. Jesus is the Head of the church. For anyone to claim that there is an earthly head over the church is to usurp the authority that Christ has as the church's

head. This usurpation is exactly what has happened in the religious world today. Many have decided that God ought to serve them as opposed to their serving God. As a result, we see "churches" that have decided that homosexuality is not such a bad lifestyle after all. We see "churches" that embrace those who marry and divorce for any cause. We see "churches" that allow their members to be practicing fornicators. We see "churches" that create pyramidal organizations and structural hierarchies none of which organizations are found within the scriptures. We see creeds and confessions of faith placed forward to guide their "church" in place of the words of Christ. All of these things result from false teaching regarding the head of the church. When men think that other men can be the head of the church (in **any** sense that one would use that word, "head") the door opens for any kind of activity that humans want to place within the doors of his or her "church." Because when a mere person thinks that he or she is the head of the "church," then he or she can do whatever he or she pleases with his or her "church." It is no longer an issue of what does the head of the church—Christ Jesus—say, but rather, what does the head of the "church"—some mere human—say. And when a person is substituted for Christ, anything goes because there is a void of divine authority.

The foundational teaching that Jesus is the head of the church is clearly emphasized in the scriptures. When Jesus spoke with the disciples about His identity in Matthew 16:18 he said, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." Who was this "rock?" Paul taught that Jesus is the Rock. In 1 Corinthians 10:4 we read, ". . . for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." In another reference to Jesus as the Rock, Peter quotes from the Old Testament prophets, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (1 Peter 2:6). And in a passage where Paul is calling

the Corinthians back to their standard of unity within the church, Paul writes, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). No other foundation, corner stone, or rock is acceptable to God. Jesus is it. There can be no other head of the church than Christ Jesus.

Perhaps someone might quip, "Well, Jesus is the heavenly head, but some man is the earthly head." While that makes good rhetoric, the Bible makes no distinction between a heavenly head and an earthly head of the church. Jesus claims headship of his church whether earthly or heavenly. To suggest that Jesus needs an earthly head of His church is to suggest that Jesus can't govern His own church on earth from heaven. Such a statement is preposterous when we consider scriptures such as Ephesians 1:20-23 where discussing the power of God, Paul writes, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." It would be to suggest that all the fullness of authority does not dwell within Jesus as the head of the church in contrast to Colossians 1:18, 19 which reads, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell." It would be to suggest that somehow Jesus cannot maintain sway over the earthly portion of His church and he needs an earthly head to "help Him out." In fact, such a suggestion denies the power of the resurrection and implies that Jesus is dead and still in the tomb (observe carefully the connection between the resurrection and Christ's headship in Ephesians 1:20-23). Such pathetic thinking originates not from heaven, but from the minds of men's feeble attempts to justify an unjustifiable teaching regarding the headship of the church—these are the real dead heads!

No doubt, many today, when asked, "Who is the head of your church?" would answer, "Pastor Jones" or "Pope John-Paul" or "President Hinkley." What would your answer be, dear friend? Would-to-God that all who are in the world today would come to a realization and understanding that Christ is the ONLY head (both heavenly and earthly) of the church and no mere man has the right to usurp that authority. Understanding this

truth will lead us to unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:21) and for which the apostles fought so earnestly within the early church (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6). Understanding this truth gives us what is needed to build Christ's church as clearly stated in Ephesians 4:15, 16 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Let all forsake men who claim headship of the church as this can only bring division and destruction. Let all acknowledge the one and only true Head, Rock, Foundation, and Cornerstone—Jesus who is the Christ!

Kevin's Korner

I only have a few lines for my Korner this week, so I will keep things brief. Monday took us up to Branson to see animated movie "Sinbad" with the kids. Tuesday we celebrated National Hotdog Month at the Community Center by eating hotdogs and bratwurst (yumm!). Wednesday I worked on updating our web site, www.the-churchofChrist.com. We are working on a new look and feel for this site and will be updating it soon. Input on this would be appreciated. Thursday I had lunch with Brent and Rusty at Sparky's (yumm!). Then the Quigley's and I visited some of our elderly and also the nursing home. Friday I had a Bible study with my Mormon friends and then Sandy dropped by (after the Mormon's left) and we studied a little. In both studies we watched the Visualized Bible Study (Jule Miller films) on video tape. If you need that for personal evangelism it is in our library. Friday afternoon Mary Lynn and I got new glasses in Harrison (whew!). Pray for us always!!!

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

Patience

Michael Hatcher

Several years ago I read an article written by brother G.K. Wallace titled: "I Will Lead On Gently." It was one of those articles which I considered a *keeper* to help remind me to be patient with others. (Be sure and read this article elsewhere in this issue.) This principle was brought home to me again within the last few days.

Recently I had the opportunity to study with a young man and through that study he obeyed the gospel being baptized for the remission of his sins. This young man became a child of God (Gal. 3:26-27), however he is a new babe in Christ. He did not "grow up" in the church, instead he has been taught denominational error which will have to be corrected. However, you cannot correct everything at one time. He spoke of "witnessing" for Christ in his conversation. We should know better and realize that one cannot witness for Christ today. As one studies the idea of witnessing, he realizes that for one to *witness for Christ* he must have seen the resurrected Lord. In fact, *witnesses* as is used in the Bible is used for one who is an apostle of Christ (see Acts 1:21-25; 2:32-33; 10:39-42). This young man was not claiming to be an apostle of Christ. Instead through denominational influence he simply meant that he wanted to tell his family and friends about his conversion and try to show them the way of salvation. Was/Is the terminology improper – Yes! Yet, there will be time to teach and show him the proper biblical terminology. There is no need to quench that attitude which he possesses by putting too much upon him at one time.

We can demonstrate patience with others, without compromising the Truth. Jesus recognized that we are not always prepared to accept everything at the same time. His apostles had been with Him for about three and half years, yet He says to them, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12). They could not *bear* everything which they needed and all that Christ had a desire to say to them. He realized the need to be patient with these men with whom He had spent all this time.

Preachers have a great deal of difficulty in this area (and it seems that young preachers just out of a preacher training school have even more difficulty in this area). We move to a congregation, we know what a congregation should be, and we expect them to be that type of congregation. Yet, many times

they are not. The congregation might not have had sufficient teaching or possibly incorrect teaching. They might have been years getting to the point where they now are. The new preacher, who knows the truth and knows what they should be, often does not spend the time and effort to gently lead the congregation back to where it should be. Instead they jump right into the problems and expect to change overnight. When that immediate change is not forthcoming, he often becomes frustrated and either moves on to another location or sometimes quits preaching altogether. Instead he needs to realize that it took them longer than overnight to get to where they were and it will take them a long time to get back to where they need to be. He needs to be prepared to spend sometimes years in teaching and instructing them, slowly and gently bringing them back to a strong congregation for God. (I wonder how many congregations could be saved to the cause of the Lord instead of going into apostasy, if preachers would be willing to spend time bringing them back to the Truth of God's Word?)

Patience needs to take place within the home also. Often those whom we love the most, we are the least patient with. We often hear parents say things along the lines of their children should know better. Yet, often that is not true. Christianity is a growth and often they have not learned to be able to discern right from wrong. The writer of Hebrews pointed out, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are full of age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). Because of their young and tender age, they have not had the experience to deal with some of these things and thus they do not know. Parents, who have had those experiences should know how to discern right from wrong and should be the ones who set the boundaries for their children. This is what helps them to learn how they are to live. However, we as parents must be patient with them as they grow and develop spiritually.

Last, I would mention that this is not meant to tolerate sin and error. In the first example, this new Christian has to be taught and he must come to understand the proper terminology so he will "speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11). Patience does not mean that we ignore sin and error nor the teaching which needs to be done. It is simply recognition that there is a growth and development in Christianity

Sunday's Sermons

For July 27th

Morning.....Our Attitude in Worship
ScriptureJohn 4:24
Evening.....Caring for Others
ScriptureMatthew 25:35, 36

Our Record

Week of 7/20

Sunday Class.....	74
Sunday A.M.	90
Sunday P.M.....	59
Wednesday	47
Contribution	\$1930.67
Budget	\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Summer Benedict, Ruth Hill, Janice and Leonard Keck.

- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- We rejoice in that Phyllis Fender was baptized last Sunday morning. She is now one of our members and resides at 412 Edwards Ave. in Berryville. Let's welcome her heartily!
- Sunday night we will have our youth devotional at Kevin and Mary Lynn's house. Bring the usual chips, drinks, and chocolate.
- The Alpena church of Christ is hosting a gospel meeting, August 1st and 2nd at 7:00 PM, Sunday the 3rd at regular meeting times. The speaker will be Johnny Arnold. They are also hosting a VBS August 4th-8th at 7:00 PM each evening.
- Eastern European Missions has requested additional support for Russian Bibles. If you would like to contribute to this work, please mark your checks with "Russian Bibles" and place them in the tray during the collection.
- Rusty will be taking a group of kids to the Mountain Home youth rally August 8th and 9th. Please get with him for details.
- Remember our youth rally scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd with Willie Franklin. Keep this in your prayers.
- Assignments for next month: Announcements—Kevin Cauley; Worship Coordinator—Larry Elliott; Prepare Communion—Shawna Stevens and Lucille Fort; Carry Communion—Bruce Foster and Sons.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Snack Crackers.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	July 27th, 2003	August 3rd, 2003
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Glenn Quigley	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth
	Bob Moore	Brent Stevens
(assist)	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
	Sandy Nieves	Sandy Nieves
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
Scripture:	Jack Gentry	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table:	Larry Elliott	George Eddings
	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Matt Bassing	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bill Fort
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Bill Fort	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Quigley	
Communion Prep	Wanda Bozarth	Joann Bragg
Communion Carry	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley

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:
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