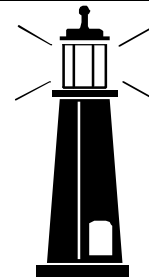


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 31

August 10th, 2003

"Do You Believe in Pastors?"

Kevin Cauley

Recently a wonderful lady whom I have gotten to know in my work here at Berryville posed this question to me. I appreciate this question and thought that it would be a good subject of a bulletin article as there is great misunderstanding in the religious world today regarding pastors. When we look in the New Testament we find the sole occurrence of the English word "pastor" in Ephesians 4:11. This text reads, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." What are "pastors?" The word "pastor" comes from the Latin word of the same spelling which means "shepherd" according to Cassell's Latin/English Dictionary. So at the heart of the word "pastor" is the idea of a shepherd. Let us now turn to the pages of the Bible and look into these matters further.

In Acts 20:17 the apostle Paul is in the town of Miletus. Verse 17 states, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." First, we see that the group to whom Paul addresses his words in the following verses are described in this passage as "the elders of the church." Verses 18-35 of this passage records Paul's discussion with these "elders." Within this context in verse 28 Paul said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Second, notice that "the elders" in this passage are also described as "overseers." Third, we see that they are told "to feed the church of God." Within some of the newer translations of the scriptures, the word "feed" in this passage is translated by the word "shepherd." The NASV, NKJV, NIV, NLT, and CEV all use the word "shepherd" in their translation in this passage. As we know, the apostle Paul did not speak English, he spoke Greek. The English word "shepherd" is a more accurate translation of

the Greek word that Paul originally used when speaking to these elders. As we noted above, the Latin word "pastor" is a synonym for the English word "shepherd." The point is that Paul describes this group as "elders," "overseers," and "shepherds" in this passage. In other words, in scripture, a "pastor" should be considered the same as an "elder" or an "overseer."

The apostle Peter also emphasizes the fact that "elders," "overseers," and "pastors" are referring to the same group of people. Peter writes,

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4 NKJV)

Consider that Peter is speaking to "elders" as verse 1 indicates. He tells them in verse 2 to "Shepherd" the flock. He says regarding the elders that they are to serve as "overseers." Once again the word "shepherd" is used by many of the newer translations such as the ESV, NASV, NKJV, and etc. In addition, the context of this passage also shows that those to whom Peter was writing were the "shepherds" or "pastors" of the church. In verse 4, Peter refers to, "the Chief Shepherd." Please note that if there is a "Chief Shepherd" then there must be some subordinate shepherds

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

as well since a "chief" of no one is no chief at all. Jesus is that Chief Shepherd according to Hebrews 13:20. The implied subordinate shepherds are the "elders" of this context. So again we find in this passage a clear description of who the elders were in the early church. The elders were the "pastors" or "shepherds." The elders were the "overseers."

So what about that word "pastor" in Ephesians 4:11? Within the King James Version, every other single instance of the Greek word from which the word "pastor" is translated is translated with the word "Shepherd." These passages are Matthew 9:36; 25:32; 26:31; Mark 6:34; 14:27; Luke 2:8, 15, 18, 20; John 10:2, 11, 12, 14, 16; Hebrews 13:20 and 1 Peter 2:25. In all of these passages the original Greek word "poimen" is used and is properly translated into English with the word "shepherd." However when we get to Ephesians 4:11, the same Greek word is translated with the English word "pastor" and this is the ONLY time in the New Testament when the Greek word "poimen" is translated in this way. Why the inconsistency? The sad truth of the matter is that the translators have been dishonest with us in perpetuating this translation in this particular passage. It should be translated "shepherd" just as in all the other instances, but it has been translated "pastor" in an effort to justify the unscriptural practice of the "one-man-pastor-system" in the religious world today.

To answer the question that was posed to me, "Do you believe in pastors?" Yes, I do, but not in the sense that the majority of the religious world uses the term "pastor" today. The majority of the religious world today uses the term "pastor" to be identical with the term "preacher" and the Bible just does not teach that idea. The Bible teaches us that "pastors" are the same men who qualify to be "elders," "overseers," or "shepherds." And when one considers that the qualifications for an overseer/elder/shepherd are set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4 it should be evident that there are many people who call themselves "pastors" today who are nothing more than hirelings (John 10:12). Let us reject the modern day concept of "pastor," go back to the Bible and "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley
Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.
Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Kevin's Korner



This past Monday for our end of the summer fling, I took Mary Lynn and the boys to Silver Dollar City. While we have been to places similar to this (Six Flags over Texas) we had never been to Silver Dollar City before and it was such a delight. It was a wonderful end-of-summer break as we get ready to go back to school. Speaking of which, we are now only a week and a day away from school starting up again. Where did the summer go?

Our back to school picnic lunch is scheduled for next Sunday. We are going to have BBQ with all of the fixin's. If there are any individuals who wish to contribute to the BBQ fund, I am receiving donations at this time. Let's remember that while we are having a good time with these events that they are opportunities for us to evangelize and show those around us that we care about them and want them to be saved. Let's use this opportunity like we would all others—to further the cause of the gospel of Christ.

This past Wednesday, Ray Duncan, John Gass and I helped Ann Engskov finish her move to Springdale. She and I have developed quite a friendship over the past ten or so months in our working together at the Berryville Community Center and I am going to miss her company. Many of you know Ann as she has lived in this community for the past 30 years. She came to our friends and family day this past June and we wish for her all the best in her new home. Perhaps we will go and visit from time to time.

You will notice on the third page of the bulletin two articles by Bill Jackson. Brother Jackson was the preacher for the congregation where I grew up through the 1980s. He passed away in 1991 not too long before my wife and I were married. There is only one other preacher who has had such an impact on my life and work today. Many of the articles that he wrote are being reproduced by my friend Eddie Watkins at <http://www.preachersfiles.com>. I will try to share some of these with you from time to time.

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

“We’re All Sinners”

Bill Jackson (deceased)

It is in the last ten years or so that we have been hearing more and more of the brethren speak of “our being sinners” just as those in sectarianism are sinners. But, the point being made, as has been demonstrated over and over again, is that we have no right to call anything error, no right to identify one as a false teacher, no right to point to any corruption of God’s order, because “we are sinners, and they are sinners, and sinners should not sit in judgment upon other sinners.” That very philosophy is right out of denomination- alism, where all agreed that anything goes, and “none of us will criticize the other.”

“We’re all sinners” – the point is true, and the point is not true, and as noted above, some men use it in a deceitful fashion. Perhaps we can best see it laid out in this fashion:

1. Some are sinners because they live a life of sin, reject all of the efforts made by God and Christ, spurn all pleadings of the righteous, and persist in a fleshly lifestyle, or a sectarian perversion of doctrine, or both. They’re part of that world lying in wickedness (1 John 5:19). They are in rebellion to God.
2. Others, who belong to God through obedience to his will, and who are now living for him, would be “sinners” only in the sense that they do not live absolutely perfect lives, as God is perfect. John points to our sins, and the need to confess such (1 John 1:8-10). But the child of God does not live in rebellion, does not pursue a life of disobedience, and puts forth great effort to please God. His are the sins of imper- fection as he stumbles in always perfectly ap- plying the Standard.

Really, does the Bible speak of Christians as “sinners”? It speaks of their having sinned, having been lost, having been dead in sin (Eph. 2: 1), and then of their having turned from sin, and having, in obedience, received the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) – and it speaks of their need to confess their faults (Matt. 6:12). Never does the Bible speak of the child of God being “a sinner” in the same fashion as the Bible speaks of the disobedi- ent and rebellious man of the flesh being “a sin- ner.”

It is a slam against God’s Plan, the blood of Christ, and the great promises of God for one to link God’s children with those of the world, lump- ing all in one group – “all sinners.”

June 7, 1989

"I Just Don't Feel A Part..."

Bill Jackson (deceased)

We all have heard it said many times down through the years, and it is always a disappointing thing. It should never be said by a child of God! He/she was added to the church by the Lord himself (Acts 2:47) upon obedience to the gospel. Where- ever that Christian goes, duty demands placing membership with a local congregation, and thus becoming a part of that group of people. In the church, and thus a part; in a congrega- tion, and thus a part.

As to "feeling a part," the attention of others might help a bit, but primarily the person himself has the larger responsibil- ity. Some members arrive late, enter in speedily with a dash to a pew, and depart before the "Amen" finishes echoing in the building. They meet no one, greet no one, participate in noth- ing in the way of congregational work, and hardly learn the name of a single soul. One month after placing membership, they do not feel a part, but that will be true two years from now, unless there is an effort to change. Remember the great statement from Solomon, so appropriate here? - "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). Back to the topic, and a sum point: If I want to feel a part of the work, I can easily accomplish that. Faithfulness and participa- tion takes care of it, if one, for God, can spare the time!

May 3, 1989

Sunday's Sermons

For August 10th

Morning..... Modern Idolatry
 Scripture Exodus 20:3-5
 Evening..... Q&A
 Scripture NA

Our Record

Week of August 3rd

Sunday Class.....	51
Sunday A.M.	78
Sunday P.M.....	66
Wednesday	58
Contribution	\$1774.39
Budget	\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We are thankful to our God for this wonderful Lord's day and together we join to praise and worship him this hour. Let us remove all worldly thoughts and focus upon Him and His will for us this hour.
- We welcome all of our visitors to our services this morning. We ask that you please fill out a visitor card and leave it in the pew as a record of your attendance.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Rusty Harris, Ruth Hill, Dorothy and Elaine Pogue, Jim Sales, Charles Swink.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting will be next week. If you have anything to discuss at this meeting please get with one of these men.
- Tonight is our monthly question and answer session. We hope that you will come to hear Bible questions answered from the Bible.
- Our back to school BBQ potluck is next week! Please make your plans to attend this event and invite all of your friends to come and celebrate the end of summer with us.
- Let's not forget that this month has five Sundays. That means on the fifth Sunday we will be singing at the nursing home. Be sure to include this in your plans for Sunday, August 31st.
- Our youth rally is fast approaching. We are only two weeks away from this event. We need to be inviting all of our friends to come and hear the gospel. Brother Willie Franklin will be speaking. You don't want to miss it!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Canned Tuna.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	August 10th, 2003	August 17th, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Clay Bozarth
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
(assist)	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
	Glenn Williams	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Clyde Atchley
Scripture:	Sandy Nieves	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table:	Rusty Windle	Leon Duncan
	Jack Gentry	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bob Moore
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Kevin Cauley	
Worship Coordinator	Larry Elliott	
Communion Prep	Shawna Stevens	Lucille Fort
Communion Carry	Bruce Foster	Brandon Foster

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