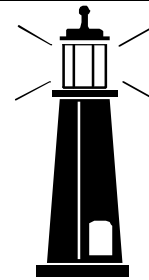


The Berryville church of Christ

# Bible Beacon

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



Volume 2, Issue 33

August 17th, 2003

## Why is Doctrine So Important?

Kevin Cauley

The word "doctrine" in the Bible simply means "teaching." Today we generally use the word "doctrine" to refer to a precise teaching or set of teachings while the word "teaching" itself refers more loosely to overall general concepts. Too, doctrine seems to have a religious connotation while teaching may connote the religious or secular. So while in our modern day language "teaching" and "doctrine" have distinct nuances, there is only one word in the language in which the apostles wrote and both English words "doctrine" and "teaching" are translated from it. So when we speak about the doctrine of the Bible we are speaking about the teaching of the Bible. Why is teaching so important?

Doctrine is important because Jesus thought it was important. Jesus said in John 7:17, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself." In this context Jesus is saying that the one who truly seeks after God will come to an understanding that Jesus' teaching is from God and that it is important to understand this because that is the way to life. Notice also John 8:31, 32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The words that Jesus taught are often used to represent within the scriptures the whole of Jesus teaching. The words in which Jesus was instructing others to abide is His teaching--His doctrine.

Doctrine is important because faith is based upon hearing doctrine. Romans 10:17 states, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Our very faith, the things that we believe, are the result of hearing the word of God which is the source of all of our teaching. The teaching, the doctrine, is that in which we place

our direct faith and our trust because it is through the words that are taught that we come to know about our relationship with God. No man can come to know God under the New Covenant without having been taught and without having learned. John 6:45 states, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." We come to the Father through the teaching, through the doctrine.

Doctrine is important because we must believe the right doctrine. The Bible teaches that to believe the wrong doctrine will lead one astray. In 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 we read, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." When we believe a doctrinal lie, it will lead to the condemnation of our soul if we don't recognize that lie and correct it. Someone once said, "Jesus did not come to this earth to make people religious; He came to make people religiously right!" We must believe the right doctrine if we are going to have hope for salvation.

Doctrine is important because ultimately the decisions that we make and the actions that we perform will be based upon what we believe. When it all boils down to it, we act based upon how we believe. Jesus said, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are *the things* which defile a man...." Jesus

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said it is based upon what is in our heart that we act, whether for good or evil. There is not a single action that we do that was not first conceived within the mind. And it is within the mind--the heart--where faith resides. Based upon the things that we believe we make decisions in our life every day. And so it is with confidence that when others act inappropriately, we can confidently say that their beliefs are inappropriate as well. So we preach the doctrine of Christ in an effort to get all who are in sin to repent and to fashion their minds anew around the blessed freedom that results in believing the truth.

What do you believe, dear friend? Do you believe the words of the Bible or do you believe the opinions and traditions of men. Believing a lie will lead you astray. But believing the truth and acting thereon will bring one to eternity. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

# HOMOSEXUALITY

By Tom Moore

Much attention and discussion has been given lately concerning "same sex marriages" and the "ordaining" of a homosexual bishop in the Episcopal Church in the news media. The views concerning these issues are varied. Sadly, it seems that over half of our country have no problem with "same sex marriages" and "homosexual church officials."

The homosexual community continues to push their repulsive lifestyle at every turn. They cry for equal rights, or more appropriately, "special" rights. The homosexuals want to adopt children and have married status privileges. They want to be considered as normal families.

We live in an age of conformity and tolerance, an age of accepting everything and condemning little. This is one of the philosophies of Humanism - that a person is a law unto himself. Friends, it is time that we make a stand and say, "enough is enough." Homosexuality is not an alternative lifestyle - it is a sinful lifestyle! Remember, it is not what you or I think that matters - it is what God says that matters, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Pro. 14:12).

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# Kevin's Korner



This past week I was mailed a flyer in regard to the National Multiple Sclerosis fundraiser. This fundraiser is an event that is designed to raise money for those who suffer from this disease. The fundraiser is being done in memory of Dena Williams whose life this disease took this past December. I would like to encourage everyone individually to support this event in memory of our dear friend.

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This past Monday, Glenn Quigley, Austin, Charlie and I took our last fishing trip of the summer before school started. It was a very exciting and rewarding trip. The fishing started slow, but then it got interesting when Austin caught a little blue gill. We moved over to an area where fish were jumping in the water and we put out our lures. Pretty soon Austin got another fish. He was reeling it in and looking over the side expecting a little fish. What he had actually got was a two and a half foot long Alligator Gar. When this fish swam up at Austin it startled him so bad that he threw down his pole and said, "Ah! I don't want that fish!" Well the fish jumped off the hook before we could get it in the net, but we all had a great laugh at Austin's reaction to that big fish. Austin caught one more fish, a 12 inch black bass. We had to put it back because it was too small. We had such a great time. Thanks Glenn for taking us fishing!

This past Tuesday we had a going away party for Ann Engskov at the community center. As I mentioned in the bulletin last week, Ann has moved to Springdale. All had an enjoyable time.

Please remember our youth rally this coming Friday and Saturday. A schedule and flyer is on the podium in the foyer.

**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

# "Admonish Him as a Brother"

*Bill Jackson (deceased)*

In the instruction on withdrawing from a disorderly member of the church, found in 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, the words are clear: The member has been disorderly (vv. 6, 10-11), and is now to be noted and association with him withheld (v. 14). Paul then adds, "Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (v. 15). One asks, "How do you do that?"

The first consideration has to do with the basic connection the person has had with you: You have been together in the family of God, as brethren in the Lord! And, for all the sinfulness in his life, he remains your brother and yet still having potential for good and for spirituality if he can be regained. He is not an enemy, except for his manner of life and conduct that is repulsive to the saint. An enemy might be shunned even to the extent that you would never say a word to him, nor he to you. But this is not the case; this is your brother.

So, while you cannot keep company with him, or have meals with him (1 Cor. 5:11) or otherwise deal with him in a fashion wherein he might think you approve of him and his behavior, you can still make contact with him. In what manner? Paul answers, "For purposes of admonishing him." There can be the calls, contacts and even the visits, provided the contact centers on that point: You point out the man's sins to him, express your desire - and God's - that he return to faithfulness, and let that be it! And, keep that up, as often as you have occasion to speak to him! Thus, AS A BROTHER ONCE FAITHFUL IN THE LORD, and now unfaithful, BUT STILL YOUR BROTHER, you make the brotherly approach to him to urge his restoration to faithfulness.

## Sunday's Sermons

**For August 16th**

**Morning..... The Holy Spirit Part 1**

Scripture ..... John 14:25, 26

**Evening..... Fellowship**

Scripture ..... Romans 16:17

*(Continued from page 2)*

The Bible is filled with passages condemning homosexuality. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Lev. 18:22). "And if a man lie with mankind, as with womankind, both of them have committed abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Lev. 20:13).

Homosexuality is also condemned in the New Testament. "For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26-27).

"Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [that is, homosexuals], nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Note that both the Law of Moses and the New Testament of Jesus Christ make the same statement: the practice of homosexuality is sin, an abomination before God, and it removes one from candidacy of inheriting the kingdom of God.

Consider also that in the beginning God created Adam and Eve (Gen. 1) - not Adam and Steve. God instituted marriage between male and female (Gen. 2:24) for the purpose of procreation (Gen. 1:28) - this rules out homosexuality.

Friends, there is nothing "gay" about homosexuality. Homosexuality is contrary to the will of God and is sinful. Homosexuality is not a matter of choice - God has condemned its practice. God has spoken.

## Our Record

**Week of August 10th**

Sunday Class ..... 63

Sunday A.M. .... 76

Sunday P.M. .... 65

Wednesday ..... 58

Contribution ..... \$1913.18

Budget ..... \$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Marie Adams, Bobbie Cauley, Michael Collins, Ruth Hill, Curtis Hull, Dorothy and Elaine Pogue, Jim Sales, Charles Swink, Charles Taylor.

- We extend our sympathies to the family of Carolyn Roller at the passing of Carolyn's sister, Cybil Olive. Memorial services were held last Sunday. We also extend our sympathies to the family of Bill Fort's friend, Rusty Harris. Please remember these families in your prayers.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Hugh and Geneva are proud great grandparents again. Dayton Aaron Riley Atchley was born to Scott and Tanya. We rejoice with them.
- Our back to school BBQ is this afternoon. Everyone is invited to stay.
- The regularly scheduled elders and deacons meeting is tonight. If you have any matters that need to be set before them, please let one of them know.
- August has five Sunday's in it. Let's all remember to come out to the nursing home on the 31st for our 5th Sunday singing.
- There is a planning session this evening for the ladies day/night out program.
- Don't forget our youth rally this coming weekend! There are flyers on the back podium for those who want to hand them out. Brent says we need chips, drinks, cookies and chocolate.
- We thank Loretta Williams for upgrading our flower arrangements in the front.
- The Pantry Item for this week is spinach.



## Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>August 17th, 2003</b>	<b>August 24th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Brent Stevens	Bill Fort
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Ken Smith
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Leon Duncan
	Larry Elliott	Glenn Williams
<b>(assist)</b>	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
	Jack Gentry	George Eddings
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Ken Smith	Clay Bozarth
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clyde Atchley	George Eddings
<b>Scripture:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Matt Bassing
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Rusty Windle
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Ray Duncan
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Kevin Cauley	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Larry Elliott	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Shawna Stevens	Lucille Fort
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Bruce Foster	Perry Foster

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