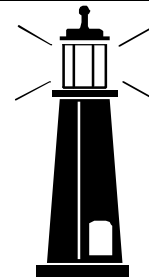


The Berryville church of Christ

# Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 43

November 2nd, 2003

## "Sons of Thunder"

Kevin Cauley

One of the more curious appellations that we find in the scriptures is the name that Jesus gave to the brothers James and John--Boanerges. Mark records this moniker in 3:17 "And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder." One does not have to wonder as to why Jesus so marked these two brothers. In Luke 9:51 Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem and he is passing through Samaria to get there. He sends some disciples ahead to find a place to lodge, but no one wants to put Jesus up because they know he is going to Jerusalem. (Samaritans and Jews didn't get along too well in those days and these Samaritans evidently didn't want anything to do with a Jew who was going to Jerusalem.) Upon learning that no one was going to put them up for the night James and John suggest the following: "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?" (Luke 9:54).

One can certainly understand James and John's sentiments. Here is the Lord of the universe in human form. He has come to earth divesting Himself of His heavenly glory so that he could serve man. He is on his way to Jerusalem to go to the Passover and he needed a place to stay for one evening. He had already spent time among the Samaritans (John 4:43) and they would likely have known that he held no ill will toward them and was, in fact, their friend. But cultural bigotry can be a strong force in influencing people not to aid those of other cultures and this day, the Samaritans were not feeling particularly hospitable. What bigots! What racists! Didn't they know with whom they were dealing? Those ungrateful wretches! Surely the Lord would want them destroyed until nothing was left but a heap of smoldering ashes and cinders! However, we

read, "But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village" (Luke 9:55, 56). Let's think about a few things we learn from this incident.

First, God does not desire that anyone be lost. We read in Ezekiel 18:32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn *yourselves*, and live ye." God does not take pleasure in destroying evil people. There are some today who picture God as some malevolent dictator who sits up in heaven eagerly waiting to press the "smite" button. Such is not the God that we serve. Those who eventually will be lost, are lost not because of God, but in spite of God. Peter writes, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God wants all men to be saved and so he is patient, kind, and longsuffering. God is desirous that men repent and live. James and John's request to bring down fire upon these Samaritans was out of character with God's desires for man's salvation.

Second, attitude plays a key role in preaching the gospel. Jesus said of James and John, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." Their attitudes were not right. They should have been seeking to forgive these Samaritans instead of condemn them. This is not to excuse the sin of the Samaritans, but instead to look for ways to bring them out of sin so that they could be saved. James and John should also have been seeking to humble themselves for the sake of these lost Samaritans. Humility was a problem with the disciples. On at least one occasion these two asked to be seated in positions of authority (Mark 10:37). Jesus taught them that those who serve would be the greatest in the kingdom. Too, James and John should also have been seeking to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of other souls. Jesus died for all men while in their sins (Romans 5:8).

The servant is not greater than his Lord (John 13:16), hence, James and John's attitude should have been one of sacrifice instead of condemnation. James and John's request to bring fire down out of heaven was out of character with Jesus mission.

Third, we must realize that Satan is the enemy, not other men. Perhaps in calling down fire James and John felt that they could right a terrible wrong, but they would not have dealt with the true enemy. Satan was the one who stirred up those national hatreds within the Samaritans. Destroying a few Samaritans wouldn't get rid of him. Satan must be fought on a spiritual level. He must be fought with teaching and instruction. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled" (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). We avenge disobedience by bringing people to Christ and bringing them to full obedience, not by waging physical war against them. This is what overthrows the influence of Satan, the true enemy. James and John's request was out of character with who the true enemy was.

It is easy for us to be like James and John today. People wrong us and we feel as if we need to be avenged. Wrongs come at all levels in our society. Those in high office are openly criticized for their mistakes in power. Individuals sue other people for enormous sums of money and win because they are seeking retribution. It is easy for a Christian to be caught up in the atmosphere of seeking "justice" even to the point of castigating one's fellow brother in Christ. But let us ask ourselves before engaging in such "justice": Are we seeking something consistent with God's character? Does our attitude reflect the mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost? Does our request recognize who the true enemy is? One other lesson that the sons of thunder teach us is this, even when injustice occurs, it is not always worth pursuing correction. Are we seeking to call down fire from heaven to consume our enemies? Let us examine our hearts and motives each and every day in following the Lord to ensure consistency with God's will in our lives.

## Kevin's Korner



The costume party this past Friday was simply wonderful. I tried and tried to get a cup of coffee while trick or treating, but no one was pouring any coffee that evening. For those of you who don't know, I was not-a-morning-person for my costume. With my rob, baggy eyes, coffee cup, and house shoes (and clothes underneath, of course) I was quite comfortable. No coffee was forth coming though. Mary Lynn made a nice looking Pippy Longstocking (my wife now has red hair). All of the kids had wonderful costumes as well. But, we'll give the award for "most bold costume" to Larry Elliott. And that's all I'm saying about that. Thank you Rusty and Tiffany for hosting this annual event. I am sure that I speak for everyone that we had a wonderful time.

This past Friday the boys were out of school, so we took the afternoon to go to the Hurricane River Cave. This cave is located about 15 miles southeast of Harrison on highway 65. It was very enjoyable. The cave walk was fairly flat and not difficult at all. The boys had a great time looking at all of the rocks and the "shapes" that they made. The cave also has an artificial waterfall that is very nice to see.

This past Tuesday I went to the community center as is my usual habit and while there I was asked to do something fun and special—record an ad for the community center on the radio. I really got a kick out of doing that. The ad will play on KTHS at random times. One person I know said that she has already heard it. I, however, haven't heard it as of yet. So, if you hear me on the radio, it is not an imposter, it is truly me. Guess that means the only other place you find me now is in the funny papers!

**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

# The Power Within!

Carl Hanson

When I get into our car to go somewhere, I simply climb in, turn the key, put the car in gear, and off I go. As I drive, I don't give much thought to all the things going on within the car to make my travel possible. Though some might think that red cars go fast, it is not the color we see that powers a vehicle. Nor is it tinted windows, fancy lights, dynamic sound systems, or bucket seats, etc. There is much more than what meets the eye. As the ignition is turned, how much thought is given to the starter spinning, the fuel being injected into the carburetor, the spark plugs firing in proper succession, the pistons going up and down, the oil pumping through to lubricate the valves, etc.? Perhaps such things are focused on when they are not working properly. All these workings within -- all doing their thing hidden within -- are what power the automobile, causing it to RUN WELL as we head out for designated destinations. A car might look nice, but without the proper power working within would get us nowhere.

There are things that go on within us that make all the difference in the world. As individuals are viewed in general, people look like people. However, some seem to be more able to stand stronger, persevere longer, and withstand seemingly insurmountable pressures in life. They are flesh. They are human. They each have weaknesses. However, something obviously makes a difference.

As Christians, is there something within us that causes our life to RUN BETTER than those following the ways of the world? Paul suffered many things in his life. However, he continued to press on with a focus for ministry and glorifying God. On the outside he could have been viewed in his human frailty. But within himself was a "fuel injecting" power to keep him RUNNING for God.

## Sunday's Sermons

For November 2nd

Morning.....**The Rich Man and Lazarus**  
Scripture .....Luke 16:19-23

Evening.....**Two Hearts**  
Scripture .....1 Samuel 16:7

To the church at Colossae Paul wrote... "For this I toil, struggling with all HIS ENERGY that he POWERFULLY WORKS WITHIN ME." (Colossians 1:29 ESV)

Paul pointed to God's energy; God's power working to energize his life and ministry. That's more "horsepower" than any engine the world has to offer. God's power is higher "octane" than anything man could fill our life with. With His spark running through our plugs we can be a fine tuned vehicle for God's works.

What is going on within? Is it time to allow God to do a major overhaul or tune-up? Let us seek His "full service" rather than pulling into the "self serve" lane this world seems to encourage us to use. He is the only One who can ensure that we reach His final eternal destination.

Have a great day POWERED BY GOD!

## Lesson's From the Barnyard

A farmer was paid a visit by one of his city relatives. Before dinner, the farmer bowed his head and gave thanks for the food they were about to eat. The farmer's "sophisticated" relative jeered, "This is old-fashioned; nobody with an education prays at the table anymore!" The farmer admitted that the practice was old, and even allowed that there were some on his farm who did not pray before their meals. Justified, the relative remarked, "So, enlightenment is finally reaching the farm. Who are these wise ones?" The farmer replied, "My pigs!"

## Our Record

Week of October 26th

Sunday Class.....	65
Sunday A.M. ....	79
Sunday P.M.....	56
Wednesday .....	61
Contribution .....	\$1776.64
Budget .....	\$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Curtis and Opal Hull.
- 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 Rusty and Tiffany's house.
- Tomorrow evening is the ladies night at Casseville. The theme is, "The Season of our Lives." The dinner starts at 6:00 and the worship begins at 7:15. If you would like to go, please see Shawna Stevens or Tiffany Windle.
- Our ladies night in Berryville is coming up soon too. Thursday, November the 13th, ladies are invited to meet at the church building for an evening of coffee and literature. The pen is definitely mightier than the sword.
- Our monthly questions and answer session is next Sunday night. Please submit your questions to the box this week.
- This coming Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. Please plan on attending this regular monthly event.
- Last Sunday I said, "This month has five Sundays." Well, I was thinking of November. So now I say again, this month has five Sundays (no, really, it does). That means that on the fifth Sunday of this month we will go to the nursing home to sing. Please begin making your plans now.
- Our trip to Costa Rica is starting to shape up. We have tickets, passports, and a plan of work. Now we need your prayers! Please pray for our work there.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Deodorizer.



## Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>November 2nd, 2003</b>	<b>November 9th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Bruce Foster	John Gass
	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley
<b>(assist)</b>	Sandy Nieves	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	George Eddings	Brent Stevens
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brandon Foster	Brent Moore
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
	John Gass	Rusty Windle
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Matt Bassing
<b>Invitation:</b>	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Leon Duncan	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Matt Bassing	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Pat Quigley	Tiffany Windle
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Bob Moore	Glenn Williams

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](mailto: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**