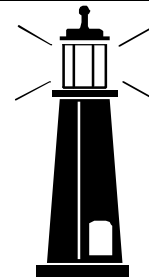


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 48

December 14th, 2003

THE PERSON TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST

Charles Box

Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians from a Roman prison about A.D. 62. It is not known who started the church at Colossae but Paul had a deep interest in these brethren. In this letter Paul gives a powerful look at the person transformed by the power of Christ.

The person transformed by the power of Christ is risen with Christ. Paul said, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1.) This is the same thought Paul had addressed in Colossians 2:12 where he said, "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." These brethren had been baptized into Christ. They had been buried and raised with Him in baptism. At baptism they were united with Christ. Thus being united with Christ they should seek to live a life pleasing to Him.

The person transformed by the power of Christ will seek Heaven. The mind of the transformed person will be set on heaven. Paul said, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:2.) Those who have been baptized into Christ should seek heaven. Their thoughts and their actions are focused in a heavenly direction. They live daily with heaven on their minds. Their desire is for that place where, "...God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4.) They have both the heart and the actions of those longing for heaven.

The person transformed by the power of Christ is dead to the old life. When a person becomes a Christian they die to self and sin. Paul said, "For you died, and your life is hidden with

Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3.) In becoming a Christian you die and give your life over to Christ. The Christian lives because Christ lives in Him. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20.)

The person transformed by the power of Christ has a new life. Literally, the Christian has given up the life of sin to have "new life." This new life is life in Christ. "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (Colossians 3:4.) Living the life of Christ causes us to look to that day when the Lord will appear again. He is coming again! "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3.) "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11.)

The person transformed by the power of Christ must put to death sins of the flesh. Paul said, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5.) As Christians we must put to death "the body of the sins of the flesh." (Colossians 2:11.) Illicit sexual relationships have no place in the life of a Christian. To avoid sexual sins we must also avoid "evil desires." Christians must be pure both inwardly and outwardly. Also covetousness has no place in the life of a transformed person. "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13.)

The person transformed by the power of Christ avoids the wrath of God. God's wrath will be poured out on those who practice the sins



Kevin's Korner



I could probably fill up a few columns on our trip to Costa Rica. There is so much to tell. Let me just say that it was a very good and productive trip. The people were (as always) very warm and friendly. We ate tons of food just about everywhere we went. Most of us, however, came back with a little weight loss. The temperature was a little warmer down there than up here and so I got a little sunburn on my forehead. This was from our mini youth rally last Saturday afternoon. Other than that, I suffered no ill effects from the trip.

We have numerous opportunities for Bible study. Including the sermons preached, we had eleven different opportunities to preach and teach God's word. One of the reasons why we had more opportunity this year is because we were working with two different congregations at the same time. These were the church in Tres Rios and the church in Coronado. I am happy to report that both congregations are doing well. We will have a full report to the congregation on January 11th during the evening service.

I certainly would be amiss if I did not offer a word of thanks to my mother for coming and helping with the kids while Mary Lynn and I were away. Also I want to thank everyone who made her stay here enjoyable during our absence. The kids did well while we were gone, but they were ready for us to come home. Charlie had a touch of the flu when we returned, but he is much better now.

They probably won't come out very well in this black and white bulletin, but I am going to put a few pictures of our trip to the left of this column so that you can see some of what went on with us down there. The first is of Moises and Maritsa's new living room. The second is of Maritsa and Sarai on their new couch. The third is of Porfirio and Carla's baby with her aunt and I think you recognize the big bear. On page three there is a picture of three of the kids. I hope you enjoy it.

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

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

of Colossians 3:5. These people are called children of disobedience. "Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience." (Colossians 3:6.) God's wrath will be poured out against every sinful act of men. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." (Romans 1:18.) "Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness -- indignation and wrath." (Romans 2:7-8.) But the transformed person avoids this wrath.

The person transformed by the power of Christ had before lived a life of sin. Paul said before becoming a Christian these people both walked and lived in sin. He said, "in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them." (Colossians 3:7.) "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived...And such were some of you..." (II Corinthians 6:9-11.) Moral wickedness is always a serious problem of all those living without Christ. The Colossians had walked and lived in fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires and covetousness. These people are not alone in their walking and living in sin.

The person transformed by the power of Christ puts off anger and hatred. Paul started the discussion in Colossians 3:5 concerning certain things Christians must rid their lives of. Now he says, "but now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth." (Colossians 3:8.) The list in Colossians 3:5 focused on sexual sins. Now he turns his attention to anger and hatred. Certain actions have no place in the life of a Christian. As Christians we must learn to control our tongues and tempers.

The person transformed by the power of Christ must tell the truth. How could it have been said with more simplicity? "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds." (Colossians 3:9.) It is impossible for lying and the Christian character to coexist.

The person transformed by the power of Christ must put on the new man. The Colossians had put off the old man and now they must put on the new man. "That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10.) Christians must walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4.) They have learned better and now they must live better. Now that Christians know, they should continually seek God's fellowship.

To become a transformed person hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27). After baptism continue to seek that heavenly home.



Our Record	
Week of 12/7/03	
Sunday Class.....	46
Sunday A.M.....	67
Sunday P.M.	60
Wednesday.....	39
Contribution.....	\$1868.02
Budget.....	\$1760.00

Sunday's Sermons

For 12/14

Morning **What is the Church?**
 Scripture..... Mathew 16:18
Evening **Q&A**
 Scripture..... na

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Marie Adams, Geneva Atchley, Wanda Bozarth, Michael Collins, Brian Guess, Pat Foster, Curtis and Opal Hull, Chris Pinkley.

- Many are out with the flu this time of the year. Let's remember the health of our congregation in your prayers.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- We want to give a big note of thanks to everyone who brought food and clothing for the children's home in Paragould. I know that they had a loaded truck when they left here because we donated a lot of items. Thank you all! A special note of thanks to Brent Stevens for organizing this effort is definitely in order.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting will be held next Sunday evening.
- Our monthly questions and answers session will be tonight.
- Our monthly potluck will be held next Sunday.
- Please note that the Cauley family will be on Christmas vacation starting on December 22nd through 30th. There will be no bulletin on the 28th.
- We need to give a great big thank you to the Smith's for hosting our annual gift exchange party. I know that everyone who went had a great time.
- I would like to say thank you to Ralph Hunter for filling the pulpit while I was in Costa Rica. I heard he did a wonderful job, as usual. Thank you bro. Hunter!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Toothpaste.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	December 14th, 2003	December 21st, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Bob Moore	Dan Hand
(assist)	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
	Jack Gentry	Matt Bassing
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Hugh Atchley
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Matt Bassing	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Sandy Nieves	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
	George Eddings	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Larry Elliott	George Eddings
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Brent Stevens	
Worship Coordinator	Leon Duncan	
Communion Prep	Susan Elliott	Joann Bragg
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 bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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