

# Berryville Bible Beacon

## Free Union

**O**ne might think upon seeing the title of this article that we are about to discuss something extremely positive. After all, what could be more appealing than freedom and what could be more motivating than unity? However, we have an adversary who is very deceitful and rejoices in calling wicked things by righteous names. This is exactly the case with the title of the article today.

As many of you know, we (five of us) took a mission trip to Costa Rica at the beginning of December, 2003. Being in a different culture for a week is enlightening because you can see how different people do things differently. However, there are some things that are universal to mankind. One of those things is the problem of sin. Changing cultures did not imply that we changed standards for what is right and wrong. Sin is as much a problem in Costa Rica as it is in the United States, Europe, Russia, or anywhere in the world.

One interesting thing, however, that did not change from our culture to theirs, is the desire to place a nice sounding name upon sin by those who engage in sin. We see this happening in our society as well. Abortion has been changed to "pro-choice." Homosexuality has been changed to "gay" or "an alternate lifestyle." The murder of the elderly has been changed from euthanasia to "death in dignity." And the sin of fornication has been changed to "recreational sex." The effort to change the name of something that is evil to something that sounds good is merely an effort to justify that which is evil.

Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Without a doubt we live in a world that would make sin ap-

pear palatable so that the masses would swallow it whole. This is, in fact, the very goal of Satan himself. He deceived Eve at the beginning and he continues to deceive today.

So what is deceptive about "Free Union?" "Free Union" is what the non-Christian people in Costa Rica refer to what we would call "living together" or "living in sin." But "free union" certainly doesn't sound like such a bad concept upon the surface of it. In fact it sounds pretty good, and herein ought to be the warning for us. Just because something sounds good or looks good, doesn't necessarily mean that it is. Even Satan would change himself to appear as an angel of light if he thought that it would advance his cause (2 Cor.11:14).

Let us take warning and be sure that we give ourselves to things that we know are right (Phil.4:8); things that we find approved within the word of God (Col.3:17). Let's make an effort to avoid trying to have our ears scratched with soothing words (Isaiah 30:10). The alternative, of course, is to have the honesty to grapple with our own failures and seek the appropriate changes in our life regardless of how difficult it may be.

Which will we choose? Deceptive words which make us feel good? Or words of truth and sobriety that cause us to examine our lives? Would to God that we choose the later because the situation that sin presents to us is anything but free and united.

Kevin Cauley

# A Different Influenza

Imagine being afraid of something invisible. Imagine being so afraid that you wouldn't come out of your house for a week! That's what happened recently in the town of Malad, Idaho. The small community of about 2,000 shut down last week -- no schools were open (they canceled a scheduled wrestling match and their drill team's performance), no churches met, and most businesses closed their doors. They took drastic measures all because of something too small to see, too quiet to hear, and too weak to move about on its own, yet something dangerous, nonetheless. This state of panic was caused by the flu!

Viewed from one point, it would seem foolish to fear something so small and seemingly insignificant. However, knowing the severity with which this flu season has begun, it would seem perfectly reasonable to take every precaution against catching this nasty bug. It would also seem reasonable to warn all others about the dangers of it to prevent it from spreading. Addition-

ally, information is needed about treatment in hopes of limiting the physiological effects and allowing the body's immune system to overcome.

A common name for the flu is, appropriately enough, influenza. This is an Italian word of Medieval Latin origin meaning "influence." It came into being from the belief that epidemics began by the influence of the stars. They believed unseen forces acted among them, producing catastrophic results.

How similar is sin in the life of humanity. You cannot see the forces that influence man to sin; you cannot hear them; nor do those forces move about on their own. Sin begins so small--as a seemingly inconsequential influenza--and yet produces catastrophic results where ever it goes.

God has warned of its severity (Romans 6:23). God has provided precautions against it (1 Corinthians 10:13). God has provided the remedy (John 1:29).

80,000,000 flu vaccines were distributed in the United States in preparation for this flu season. If

you failed to get one, you are out of luck, because while they are scrambling to make more, that is all there are for now. If you are one of the many more Americans who chooses to ignore the dangers of this virus, even if you contract it, you will probably be all right: the effects are relatively short-lived and usually leave no permanent injury. In contrast, the influences of sin are permanent if left untreated. Don't ignore sin. Seek the remedy which God has provided and enjoy the eternal spiritual health which He can give!

Keith Olbricht

*"80,000,000 flu vaccines were distributed in the United States in preparation for this flu season."*



## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 1/04/04

Morning .....	Year of the Lord
Scripture .....	Isaiah 61:1-3
Evening .....	Lessons from the Life of Joshua
Scripture .....	Joshua 1:1-9
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	The book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	Our Passion

## Weekly Record

Week of 12/28/03

Sunday Class .....	57
Sunday A.M. ....	84
Sunday P.M. ....	61
Wednesday .....	66
Contribution.....	\$1688.04
Budget.....	\$1760.00

## Directions

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**H**aving just returned from a week's vacation in which we drove approximately 1500 miles, I can attest to the fact that we would not have arrived at our intended destinations were it not for some kind of directions. Directions can be a set of instructions that you have that tell you where to go to arrive at a certain place. Directions can also be the standard for determining which way you are going to go such as North, South, East, and West.

It is also certainly possible for us to have the correct directions, but to be going in the wrong direction. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 119:5, "O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!" The passage

makes it clear that not only must we have the right set of directions (the statutes), but we must be directed, that is, headed in the correct direction.

I once heard a story about a man who had flown in from another part of the country. He got into his car and pulled out the map of the place that he was to go. He drove around for hours following the map, but could not seem to arrive at his destination. He pulled over at a service station and asked for help. He explained where he was going and how the map had told him to get there. The attendant said that he had everything correct but there was one small detail that he was missing--he was in the wrong city!

Just a few short days ago, God blessed us with a brand new year.

This New Year has potential unlimited. There are opportunities just waiting to be seized. We have a whole year of time that we can dedicate to the service of the Lord. We have the directions that we need on what to do with this New Year. The question simply remains, "Will we be directed?" Will we be like the Psalmist who prayed to God for his ways to be directed? Or, will we be like the man who has the directions, but is in the wrong city and constantly headed in the wrong direction because of it? The choice is up to us to use this New Year to the glory of God or to waste it pursuing empty illusions of the world. Let us all pray together, "O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!"

Kevin Cauley

## Kevin's Korner

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**I** hope that everyone had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I think I can attest for those at the New Year's Eve devotional at the church building this past Wednesday evening that everyone there at least had a happy beginning to their New Year.

Many have asked about our trip to Texas. It was a good trip. Our first stop was in Hemphill, Texas to see Mary Lynn's parents, Foy and Mary Forehand. (Foy is scheduled for a gospel meeting with us at the end of this year, so we will be seeing more of them before the year is concluded.) We stayed with them for a period of three and 1/2 days. They have a lovely house in the East Texas Piney Woods. Their

back yard is a veritable campground. We built an outdoor fire back there several times during the visit and really enjoyed being outside.

From Hemphill we drove almost due West to Austin, Texas to visit with my parents. We had belated Christmas with them and got to see my parents, Charles and Bobbie Cauley, as well as my sister and grandmother. We spent three and 1/2 days there as well. We saw movies, went to the mall, and ate quite a bit. In fact, I don't think that I have ever eaten quite as much as I did this past Christmas or at least it felt that way.

I guess you have noticed by now that the bulletin has a new format. It should still have all of the same information within it, just in a little

different presentation. The format also gives me a little more flexibility to move things around a bit and run different size stories. It is also a little bit of a change from the other format and sometimes change can be good.

### **Elders:**

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,  
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn  
Quigley

### **Deacons:**

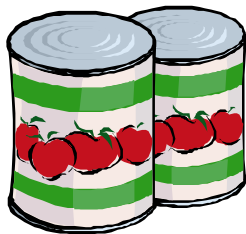
Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### **Preacher:**

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

# News, Notes, and 'Noucements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- We express our sympathy to Lucille Fort and the family of Joe Koble who passed from this life this past week.
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Marie Adams, Brian Guess, Curtis and Opal Hull, Raymond Kimes.
- Our monthly youth devotional is scheduled for tonight. Please make your plans to attend this regular event and invite your friends!
- This coming Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. We have not had one of these in a while, so let's make an effort to get up early on Saturday and start the day with this wonderful time of fellowship.
- Well its time to start planning for vacation Bible school! Next Sunday evening after the evening worship, those who are interested in participating in VBS should stay for a brief meeting.
- Next Sunday night during the evening service, Kevin will make a report to the congregation on the recent mission trip to Costa Rica. Please make your plans to come hear about that effort.
- Ladies Bible class will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM. We will continue our study of the book of 1st John starting this coming Wednesday, January 7th. Please make your plans to attend.
- Please check the bulletin board for other schedules.
- The pantry item for this week is Canned Vegetables.



## Welcome! To the Berryville church of Christ.

### Family Times for 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

### Serving Each Other

January 4th, 2004

January 11th, 2004

#### Sunday Morning

<b>Songs:</b>	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
<b>Preaching:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	George Eddings	Bill Fort
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	Sandy Nieves	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table</b>	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
	Glenn Quigley	Larry Elliott
<b>(assist)</b>	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
	Glenn Williams	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens

#### Sunday Evening

<b>Songs:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
<b>Preaching:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Dan Hand
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table</b>	Brent Stevens	Dale Pinkley
	Larry Elliott	Jack Gentry
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Bob Moore	Matt Bassing

#### Wednesday

<b>Songs:</b>	Bruce Foster	Glenn Quigley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
<b>Invitation:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Rusty Windle
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster