



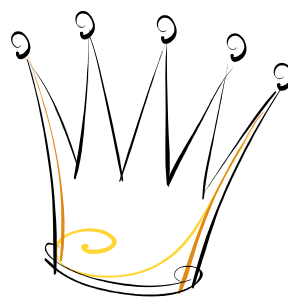
## “The Emperor’s New Clothes”

**T**his past Thursday evening, (April 1st 2004) we went to the Berryville Community Center and watched a high school choir production of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes." You may be familiar with the story. An emperor is more concerned with his own vanities than he is with the affairs of his kingdom. Two flattering and seductive villains persuade the king that they can make the finest set of clothes in all the empire for him, but the clothes are so sheer that only the "wisest" will see them. They take all of the emperor's money, dupe him with "invisible clothes," and abscond the empire before the truth is discovered. While the emperor's subjects all remark at how beautiful the clothes are (not wanting to be considered anything but wise), a small boy finally exposes the truth that the emperor is naked. Having had his "eye's opened," and learned a valuable lesson about deception the emperor is a wiser and humbler public servant.

While considering the basic plot of this story, I thought, "How so much like many in the religious world today." There are millions who allow themselves to be deceived religiously on a regular basis due to some of the same mistakes the emperor made. Considering that, let's notice some ways in which we may be deceived. First, we are most likely to be deceived when we value things more than truth. Second, deceptive people generally employ flattering tongues, never dealing honestly and plainly with others. Third, we may be deceived when we buy into the notion that we will not be "wise" if we don't accept the deception.

When we value things more than we

value truth, we are more likely to be deceived. The emperor deeply valued his personal attire, so, when someone came knocking that could offer him something superior in that area, he was susceptible, valuing his vanity more than truth. Today, we hear of people being deceived in things they value as well. How many widows have been cheated out of their life savings because someone came along and told them their house was going to collapse if they didn't fix the "foundation?" How many of us have fallen victim to "free vacation" scams? How many have been deceived by real estate ventures for the "free on site offer?" Houses, vacations, property—those are all things that we ought to value less than truth, but many do not. It is no different in the religious world today. Many come selling "self-help," "motivation," "emotional satisfaction," "personal relationships," and "personal worship experiences" all in the name of religion. Mil-



lions buy into these scheme's every year, because they love self-experience and emotionalism more than they love truth. If they would investigate the truth, then they would know the fraud immediately and who is doing what is right. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." We must value truth above all else, if we are not to be deceived.

Deceptive people generally employ flattering tongues, never dealing honestly and plainly with others. Those who desired to sell the emperor his new set of clothes told the emperor what distinguished tastes he had in clothing, what polished refinement in style, and what discerning eye in fashion. Obviously, these deceivers couldn't have been wrong in their assessment of him, so when they promised

## “The Emperor’s New Clothes” (cont.)

to deliver the best clothing possible, they must have been right in that as well. If they had told the emperor that they were there to steal his money and convince him to parade around town naked, no doubt he would have rejected them immediately. In the religious world today, many use flattery and other forms of deceit to sway the multitudes in their favor. Little do you hear of



people preaching on the subjects of sin, the necessity of repentance, hell or the necessity of righteous living.

Most sermons are preached on "love," tolerance (of sin), forgiveness (without repentance), and other "feel good" themes. And while there is nothing wrong in preaching on positive subjects, preaching on them to the exclusion of the other is deceptive and flattering. It assumes the hearer doesn't need to change, doesn't need to be warned, and can't handle the honest truth on such "controversial" subjects. Most would rather have their ears scratched than to have to deal with hard teachings that require personal sacrifice. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5, "For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but

God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness." Next time someone tries to butter you up, religiously, beware. The likelihood is that the person who causes you to reflect negatively on yourself is telling you the truth.

Those who are often deceived usually are so deceived because to be otherwise would mean that they were not "wise." The emperor's subjects deceived themselves because they thought that if they told the truth, then there would be no wisdom in them. Then, that deception grew throughout the whole empire because no one had the courage enough to stand up to the majority who thought they were wise. Who wants to be thought of that way? Today, those who have the truth are often ridiculed as not understanding God's love, mercy, and grace. And indeed, who wants to be thought of as not understanding those things? We all want to understand God's love, mercy, and grace. So to be accused of not understanding it, places one into the position of not being "wise" in matters of religion. And, the more people who believe that you "just don't understand those things," the more foolish one appears. Notice I said, "appears," because it is not how one appears that truly demon-

strates one's understanding of something, but what one believes in comparison to the truth. Paul wrote, "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:20, 21). Those who preach and teach the truth are often the one's who appear most foolish. But it is not man's wisdom that truly judges whether something is wise or not, but God's.

The Bible warns us that sin is deceitful (Hebrews 3:13). Will we, like the emperor, don a set of clothing that is no clothing at all? Or will we enrobe ourselves in the garments of truth and salvation? Let us always be on our guard, prizing truth above all else, preaching the plain and simply gospel, not mindful of other men's flatteries, and seeking the wisdom that is from above. By following after these things, we will protect ourselves against the one deceiver that is opposed to all, Satan himself (John 8:44).



### Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 04/04/04

Morning .....	The Bible—Our Pattern from God
Scripture .....	Romans 6:17
Evening .....	When Was the Church Established?
Scripture .....	Daniel 2:44
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	How To Study the Bible

### Weekly Record

Week of 03/28/04

Sunday Class .....	59
Sunday A.M. ....	61
Sunday P.M. ....	59
Wednesday .....	59
Contribution .....	\$1774.00
Budget .....	\$1778.13

## An Evangelistic Attitude

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**T**he greatest joy a Christian can know is the salvation of some lost soul. Some time ago I heard a man say, "He can't save me. I don't see any nail prints in his hands." Misunderstandings regarding salvation are rampant in the religious world. Speaking of a Christian who has left "the Truth" and gone back into sin, James exhorts, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sin" (James 5:19-20). In one sense, no man can save another, that is, pay the price for his salvation. However, in the sense of James 5:19-20, a man can save (by instruction, discipline, and concern

and effort) another man who has gone into error. This is also true of those who have never become saved, thus the Great commission of Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16 and Jesus words recorded in Acts 1:6-9. Nothing would please me more than seeing certain people repent and return to their first love; showing genuine fruit of repentance (Acts 26:20). My tears of joy would flow without any hint of shame. While there is life, there is hope. Nothing could please me more that seeing those who are lost in those worldly things (denominationalism, worldliness, pride, immorality, etc.) learn "The Truth," obey the Gospel and become saved! Nothing! These joys come only when we expend the energy and make the sacrifices to teach them. "When in a better land, before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls will be; if

any lost one there should cry in deep despair, 'You never mentioned Him to me. You never mentioned Him to me. You helped me not the light to see. You met me day by day, and knew I was astray, yet, never mentioned Him to me.'" May our glory ever be saving the lost! Let us keep our hands OFF God's glory and faithfully serve in the church, the body of Christ (Eph.3:20-21). May God bless you in teaching efforts! May God bless us all in our teaching efforts...salvation!

March 31, 2004  
Foy G. Forehand

## Kevin's Korner

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**W**hat a week it has been for me. It seems that something has occupied my time for just about every moment of this week. That is not a bad thing, it is good, because I want to go about doing the work of the Lord. I want people to demand my time. I want people to want to know more about God and His word. So I am thankful that this has been a week wherein people have desired my time.

As you have probably already seen from the lead article, we went to see the play at the community center this past Thursday evening. We really enjoyed that. A big thumbs up to Joel for playing the emperor's military adviser.

Many of you are familiar with Lola

Trost, a member of the church at Green Forest, and one of the ladies I go visit in the nursing home. This past Tuesday I went to the nursing home to visit with her and we ate pie together. This past Thursday I went over and found out that she had been admitted to the hospital for pneumonia. She is a wonderful lady and I appreciate her so much. I know that she would count it a blessing if you would remember her in your prayers.

I would like to mention our Friends and Family day weekend coming up in June. As many of you know, we are going to have a one day VBS this year and June 12th. I have been speaking of this event to several in the community and they perceive it as a wonderful idea. As soon as we are settled on what our theme is, then we will make up some flyers so that we can start

handing these out to others. The day after VBS, June 13th, will be our Friends and Family day. We have flyers for that event, but they are gone now. I will make more. We need you to remind your friends and family of this day to make this event a success!

### **Elders:**

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

### **Deacons:**

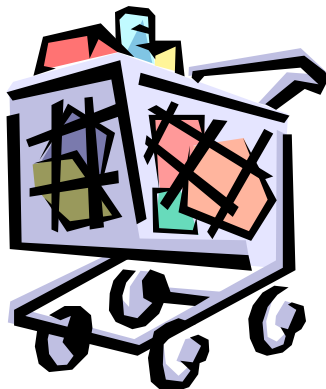
Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### **Preacher:**

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

# News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- 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!
- The following have been requested for prayer: Drake Collard, Michael Collins, Opal Hull, Justina Goucher, Brian Guess, Janice Keck, Chris Pinkley, Damen Roberts.
- Several have had the seasonal allergies, colds, and other upper respiratory illnesses recently. Let's all remember to pray for the health of our congregation.
- Remember our shut ins: The Hulls, Edith Mischler, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts.
- House to House and Heart to Heart will be addressed this evening after services.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting is tonight. If you have anything that needs to be addressed, please see one of these men.
- Men's breakfast this coming Saturday. I'm sure that we have some work to do after the breakfast. Please come for that monthly event.
- Next Sunday, April 11th, at Loretta Williams house, we will have an egg hunt. She has invited everyone out, so let's go out and have a great time.
- There is an area wide singing at Shell Knob today at 2:00 this afternoon.
- The pantry item for this week is Dish Detergent.



## 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

	April 4th, 2004	April 11th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Sandy Nieves	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Brent Stevens	Clay Bozarth
(assist)	Dan Hand	Glenn Quigley
	Brandon Foster	Bruce Foster
	Jerry Roller	Matt Bassing
Closing Prayer	John Gass	Jerry Roller
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Matt Bassing	George Eddings
	Jack Gentry	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Brent Stevens

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