



## The Little Ones

I heard a story this week about a little boy in Texas who is currently residing in a children's home. When I inquired about why he was in the home, I was told that his Father placed him there on account of a new wife who didn't want to be bothered by the boy. When I asked whether there were someone else who could take care of the child, I was told that the Father forbade the child being in any other situation other than the orphanage, even though, there were other relatives willing to care for the child and even adopt the child.

Sadly, this is just one story of neglect and abandonment of many that could be told in our nation today. If the tears and crying of the neglected children in our society were audible, we could cover our ears and still hear the cacophony of anguish louder than the loudest roar of pain. Paul the apostle listed such among the most repugnant of sins in Romans 1:31: "without natural affection." No doubt you are asking, "How could someone be so calloused and cold as to do such a thing, to neglect and abandon one's own offspring?" Well, it didn't happen without other sinful influences. What are some of those influences?

First, there is disbelief in God. Jean Paul Sartre said, "If there is no God, then anything goes." If there is no God, there is no right and wrong, no morality. Humanists and Atheists would have us believe that people can be good without God, but society has proved them wrong over the years. If individuals are not taught what is right and wrong, then they will not behave accordingly. They will simply act according to their own animal instincts and do what they "feel" is best to preserve their own existence. And who suffers because of such an attitude? The little ones.

Second, there are those who tolerate the erosion of moral values. It used to be the case that when someone committed adultery, divorced, got pregnant out of wedlock, or committed any other act of shame, that they were shunned from society for their impenitent sins, and rightly so. But today, we have come to a point where it is a sin to point out someone else's sin. Because of such a situation, evil has silenced good. And who suffers because of such an attitude? The little ones.

Third, there is the attitude of selfishness. We live in a society that panders to the wants and desires of the individual. We don't have time to serve others because we are too busy serving self. "Have it your way" has become our true national motto instead of "In God we trust." And if we don't get our way, then we just "take our ball and go home." And who suffers because of such an attitude? The little ones.

Fourth, there is failure to accept responsibility for one's actions. We are a society that loves to place the blame on someone else instead of ourselves. We blame McDonald's because we are fat. We blame the President because we are lazy. We blame the righteous, because we sin. It's always someone else's fault. And who suffers because of such an attitude? The little ones.

Jesus said, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Who will "defend the fatherless" and "plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17)? Not those who behave as outlined above. The only people we are hurting by our behavior today are our own children and do we think God will not notice? Brethren, awake to righteousness (1 Corinthians 15:34)!

# Old Time vs. Show Time!

The extent to which some brethren have gone in an effort to fill the pews would almost defy belief. We are being told that the church must adapt its message to meet the challenge of our entertainment oriented society. One church defends its "drama ministry" saying:

Our prime objective is to teach. Not everyone is comfortable with drama, but there are others who can understand forgiveness, healing, and faith through drama when sermons don't touch them. Others can see themselves and their sins in such a way that they cannot run from them anymore. And there is always Jesus there to forgive and take them in His arms, wiping away their tears. For some people, this is something no preacher can do.

We wonder why the Lord overlooked this marvelous medium. After all, first century society was steeped in drama. Rome, Corinth and Ephesus all had huge theaters accommodating thousands of spectators. However, Christ ignorantly disregarded this valuable means of ministry.

Some brethren are not deterred by the lack of biblical authority for substituting performance for preaching or incorporating it as worship. Here is a sampling of what is being done by some in the church today:

The minister comes out to announce that "Today's theme is pressing toward the goal. We have a skit prepared to

help us make application..." Lights are dimmed, two spot lights are pointed to two men with wireless microphones dressed for the roles of high school football coaches. Then a 70's style Howard Cosell type announces "The Game of life." Three high school football players (with jerseys, pads and tight pants) come out to play their parts.

One is carrying the weight of sin (a black cloth partially draped over his jersey) being tackled...caught from behind and dragged down by sin as he loses sight of the goal. Another, having received a long pass, dropped the ball before he could reach the goal. Finally, there is a missed field goal. Now on too the locker room where there are heated exchanges between players. The coach settles everyone down and exhorts each to press toward the goal. This is done by focusing on the goal, throwing off the weight of sin, etc. The assembly claps enthusiastically at the conclusion and the re-illumination of the auditorium.

All of this emphasis on dramatic productions attracts the worldly minded. These productions entertain, but they are not sanctioned by the God as worship to him. Short plays may be helpful in illustrating Bible truths to children in a classroom environment, but there comes a time when we must "put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11).

Another church has decided to use their dramatic arts in the name of "outreach." This consists of ex-

cerpts from the musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic tale of the French Revolution, *Les Misérables*. They justify their extravaganzas by lamenting the difficulty of getting non-Christians to attend worship. At least with this kind of production, outsiders may become accustomed to coming into their church building.

The chief problem with the entertainment approach is that it is man centered rather than God centered. It is concerned with what people want, not what God demands. It sees the church existing for people's sake rather than for God's sake. The idea that any generation is so simple minded they can't understand the love of God from a sermon but must have a dramatic production to get the point across is not only absurd, but insulting too.

After nearly 2000 years, it still pleases "God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). The growth of the church in the first century has nothing to do with entertaining the populace but everything to do with preaching the gospel. Paul asked: "For am I now seeking the approval of man or of God?" Notice his startling conclusion: "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Let us remember that the power to save the lost is in the gospel (Romans 1:16) not entertainment.

Dan Flournoy

## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 7/11/04

Morning .....	Things That Unite—One Body
Scripture .....	Ephesians 4:1-6
Evening .....	Questions and Answers
Scripture .....	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	The Book of Micah

## Weekly Record

Week of 7/04/04

Sunday Class .....	57
Sunday A.M. ....	79
Sunday P.M. ....	51
Wednesday .....	67
Contribution.....	\$1407.50
Budget .....	\$1778.13

## Christianity, The Better Way

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Christian is a believer in Christ who has repented and been baptized for remission of sins. "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38.) In life one can choose to serve Satan as a sinner, or serve Christ as a Christian. You can live either way but Christianity is the better way.

- Christianity is the better way because it means salvation: "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." (John 10:9.)
- Christianity is the better way

because it rids us of the old sinful life: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (II Corinthians 5:17.)

- Christianity is the better life because God can work through the life of a Christian: "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20.)
- Christianity is the better life because Christians enjoy the peace of God: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. . ." (John 14:27.)
- Christianity is the better way because Christians have

hope: "That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:7.)

You will not be sorry for becoming a Christian or for living the Christian life. It is better for now and forever. Christians are the real winners. Those who reject Christianity are the losers now and in eternity. The better life always results from faithful service to God.

Charles Box

## Kevin's Korner

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his week, I am going to take this space to tell you about something very important in our nation. Our nation's senate will be debating and voting on the Federal Marriage Amendment this week. This is the amendment that limits marriage in the United States to one man and one woman. This must be a constitutional amendment because so many activist judges in our land are overturning the laws passed by the people citing that the laws are "unconstitutional." In essence, liberal judges are writing off all morality from our countries laws. We cannot allow them to do that. We must maintain a code of moral decency in this country and not allow moral anarchy to prevail.

I strongly urge each one of you to call our senators this week. Both senators Lincoln and Pryor have said that

they intend to vote against the Federal Marriage Amendment because they don't think it is necessary. Don't let them play politics with morality. Let your voice be heard in their office. You may call them at the following phone numbers.

Sen. Blanche L. Lincoln  
Toll Free: 1-800-352-9364  
Washington Phone: 202-224-4843  
District Offices:  
Little Rock 501-375-2993  
Ft. Smith 479-782-9215  
Monticello 870-367-6925  
Texarkana 870-774-3106  
Jonesboro 870-910-6896

Sen. Mark Pryor  
Toll Free: 1-877-259-9602  
Washington Phone: 202-224-2353  
District Offices:  
Little Rock 501-324-6336

If you can't get through on the first attempt, then please call one of the other numbers or try as many times

as you can in order to get through.

I also know that there are many others who get this bulletin in other states of the union. I urge you to call your respective senators as well and let them know that you support the Federal Marriage Amendment. Please, let's do what we can do ensure that the future of our country is morally safe for our children and grandchildren.

### Elders:

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

### Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

# Prayers and Proclamations

- 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!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Lois Bales, Gary Bragg, Lucille Fort, Bob McCree's brother.
- Neva Welch recently had extensive storm damage to her house. She requests prayers.
- Please remember our shut ins: Curtis Hull, Edith Mischler, Art Roberts.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting will be held tonight.
- Our monthly potluck will be held next Sunday afternoon. Please be making preparations for this wonderful day.
- We welcome our new member, Vernis Hayden. She is a resident of Berryville.
- Kevin will be holding a gospel meeting beginning next Sunday in Heber Springs, AR. In his place, the new associate minister at Casseville will be filling in Sunday morning.
- The pantry item for this week is Poptarts.

# 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

	July 11th, 2004	July 18th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	TBA
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Bill Fort
Scripture Reading:	Leon Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Bruce Foster	Clay Bozarth
	Dan Hand	Matt Bassing
(assist)	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
	Ray Duncan	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Larry Elliott	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	TBA
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Dan Hand	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	John Gass	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Jack Gentry
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Closing Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley

## Happy Birthday/ Anniversary!

We would like to wish a happy birthday and anniversary to all who have such in the month of July!

### Birthdays

Debbie Smith..... 7th  
 Pat Foster..... 10th  
 Joann Bragg..... 12th  
 Rose Spencer..... 17th  
 Kevin Cauley..... 30th

### Anniversaries

Jason and Lanna ..... 26th

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