



## Freedom of Speech?

As far as the Christian is concerned, everything that he is, does, and says, belongs to God. So, the Christian's speech is to serve the Christian's Lord. This means that the Christian is free to speak, but only in a way that would honor God (Colossians 3:17).

There are those, however, who suggest that freedom of speech gives us the right to say just about anything that we please, including vulgar language, obscenities regarding other people, backbiting, gossip, and just about any other kind of foul speech imaginable. One of my favorite verses in that regard is Psalm 12:3, 4 "The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; **our lips are our own:** who is lord over us?"

While the one type of speech is approved by God, the other type is sinful, and we all recognize that. However, speaking from a legal/constitutional perspective, the courts have determined that both kinds of speech are legally protected. That is, one may stand up and utter vitriolic and vicious words that cut and destroy OR one may stand up and speak the sober truths of righteousness that are contained within the gospel of Christ, right? Well, that's what we think, at least.

Three news stories have appeared in my email in-box recently regarding seemingly unrelated incidents. One of them had to do with the rantings of one Whoopi Goldberg at a fund raiser for Kerry and Edwards. I won't get into the sordid details (and I do mean sordid), but Goldberg's potty mouth spewed just about every form of obscenity in the book and added a couple of new entries. Concerning that event, the Kerry campaign stated that it was "the heart and soul of America." You can draw your own conclusions. Now, if someone had suggested that Goldberg go to prison over saying such things, no doubt, someone would have yelled, "Free Speech! Free Speech!" and the whole matter would have ended.

On the other hand, there is a man in Wisconsin who has made a couple of banners to be held over freeways on a pedestrian overpass that state, "Homosexuality is sin" and "Christ can set you free." What has happened to this man? First, the city ordered him off the overpasses. Of course, he cited free speech, but as of late, a federal court judge has sided with the city. If he tries to do this again, guess what? He goes to jail.

In yet another incident, a conservative member of the National Education Association was kicked off of her position in the NEA because she objected to the NEA giving an award to a homosexual activist. Simply for standing up and saying that she didn't think that this homosexual (who is on the record as saying he wants kindergarteners exposed to homosexuality) deserves an award, she was given "da boot."

So, here is one incident where a woman can utter the filthiest kind of speech imaginable known to man and be praised for it but on the other hand, two people who stand up for what is right and good and holy, are shut down, no doubt as harboring that politically correct term, "hate."

How is it that one form of hate speech can be completely ignored (Goldberg's), but that another form of "hate" speech (which really isn't) must be legally dealt with and prohibited? There is really only one explanation. Satan has convinced people that wrong is right and that right is wrong. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "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!" (Isaiah 5:20).

Do we think that we have a constitutional right to free speech in our churches today? That may be changing before we know it. Today it is the overpass that is being censored, tomorrow, the pulpit. Awake to righteousness! It is time for good Christian people to take back control of our nation.

Kevin Cauley

# Earthly Bonds

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It is possible that one's choice of human companionship will have more influence on your life as a Christian than any other decision. Of course, one must first become a child of God by obedience to His will, but the people with whom you choose to build relationships during life will have a profound impact on your faithfulness. Let's look briefly at some Bible statements about relationships.

God's word makes it clear that friendships can be either spiritually encouraging or destructive. It was likely the wise King Solomon that said, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20.) The apostle Paul also warned, "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals." (I Corinthians 15:33.) Even the best of intentions can be corrupted when we are not wise enough to build relationships with people who share those intentions. Christians certainly have a great responsibility to try to reach those lost souls with the gospel, but we must keep a careful eye on our own spiritual welfare.

If we are warned about even keeping company with ungodly people, how much more should we try to avoid deepening our bonds with them? Young people especially are faced with the decision of whether or not to date non-Christians. One of the most common justifications I have heard for this is that by dating them you will have a better chance of converting them. While on a rare occasion that may occur, it is not likely. As many temptations as a Christian may face in dating relationships today, just think how greatly that might be magnified if your dating partner does not share your love for God and desire for righteousness.

Paul said, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" (II Corinthians 6:14-15.) Be a friend to all people showing them the love of Christ, but do not bind yourself to the ungodly in such a way that your faithfulness is compromised.

Darrell Powell

## Rope Holders

Down beneath the mighty ocean  
 Divers plunge for treasures rare.  
 But men hold the ropes above them  
 So they breath the upper air.  
 Seeking pearls of richest value,  
 Braver hearts have dared to go,  
 But our hands must every moment  
 Hold the ropes that reach below.

So, amid the heathen darkness  
 There are heroes true and brave  
 Shrinking not from death and danger,  
 Bearing all to help and save.  
 But they cry, "Oh, do not leave us  
 'Mid these dreadful depths to drown.  
 Let us feel your prayers around us;  
 Hold the ropes while we go down."

Author Unknown



## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 7/18/04

Morning .....	Chris McCurley
Scripture .....	TBA
Evening .....	Richard White
Scripture .....	TBA
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	TBA
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	The Book of Micah

## Weekly Record

Week of 7/11/04

Sunday Class .....	57
Sunday A.M. ....	75
Sunday P.M. ....	54
Wednesday .....	67
Contribution .....	\$1445.75
Budget .....	\$1778.13

# From the Desk of My Mother-In-Law—Twenty Truths to Remember

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1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
6. Do the math. Count your blessings.
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
11. The most important things in your home are the people.
12. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
13. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
17. Talk about others is not real until you confirm it, otherwise it's just hearsay.
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle -- it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

## Kevin's Korner

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**W**ell, I guess when you read this, I will be in Heber Springs preaching. I thought I would just let everyone know the lessons that I would be presenting in that effort. The overall theme for this meeting, as well as for the meeting coming up in Stark City, will be "Modern Questions and Ancient Answers." The idea here is to talk about some of the most prominent religious questions that people are asking today and in that regard answer those questions according to what the Bible says. The Heber Springs meeting is Sunday through Wednesday, but the Stark City meeting is Sunday through Friday, so there will be two additional lessons presented there. I will be discussing the following subjects/questions:

- Why should we stand firm on our

convictions? (Bible class)

- What is a marriage that God approves? (Sunday A.M.)
- What about evangelism? (Sunday P.M.)
- Why do we not use instrumental music? (Monday Night)
- What must I do to be saved? (Tuesday Night)
- What will happen at the end of time? (Wednesday night)

And for the Stark City meeting, I will add these two in the mix:

- What about immorality?
- Does God have a pattern?

I believe that these topics are timely and that they are questions that many people are asking in the religious world today.

Our missionaries have e-mail! Please write and encourage them.

- Michael Essien: churchof-christ1943@yahoo.com
- Moises Umana: moises\_umanna@hotmail.com
- Porfirio Cordoba: porfi-cor@racsaco.cr

### **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!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Gary Bragg, Ora Cauley, Lucille Fort, Curtis Hull, Jim McVey, Reck Wallace.
- Please remember our shutins: Edith Mischler and Art Roberts.
- If you are visiting with us, today is our monthly potluck. We ask that you stay and join us for a meal in our basement.
- If you are wondering where Kevin and his family are, they are in Heber Springs, Arkansas. Kevin is holding a gospel meeting there starting today and ending Wednesday. Please pray for this effort.
- In the latest "Old Paths" published by Dalton Key, Walter Buchanan writes, "One cannot sow to the flesh and reap of the Spirit; he cannot live like the rich man and die like Lazarus." Hmm. Now that's something to think about.
- Don't forget to visit our web site from time to time: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com> and while your surfing, come by and study on an online Bible study forum at <http://www.preachersfiles.com/forum>
- The pantry item for this week is paper plates.



## 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 18th, 2004	July 25th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Chris McCurley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bill Fort	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Glenn Quigley
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
	Matt Bassing	Bob Moore
(assist)	Brent Moore	Clay Bozarth
	Brent Stevens	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Richard White	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Brent Stevens
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Jack Gentry
Lord's Table	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Jack Gentry	Matt Bassing
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Larry Elliott	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Ray Duncan

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