



“Self-Righteousness”

“**F**or I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20).

The above saying of Jesus introduces within its context the fact that the Scribes and Pharisees had devised their own system of salvation based not upon the teaching of scripture, but upon the doctrines and traditions of the rabbis. Jesus illustrates this in the next few verses by pointing out to those who were listening, “You have heard that it has been said....” He uses this phrase in verses 23, 27, 31, 33, 38, and 43. After he tells us the phrase that was heard in rabbinical Judaism, he then exposes the fallacy of the use of such phrases to create a system of one’s own righteousness. The Scribes and Pharisees were guilty of creating such a system.

Jesus calls attention to this system more than once and in Matthew 15 comes into direct conflict with it. The Scribes and Pharisees here ask Jesus why he transgressed “the tradition of the elders.” In response, Jesus asked them why they transgressed “the commandment of God because of your tradition?” Their concern was not to submit to the commandments of God, but to devise ways in which one could excuse oneself from such commandments. In this way, they created a righteousness of their own.

One should recognize in this that it was not so much a system of salvation that Jesus was rejecting, but rather, a system of salvation that was based upon traditions that set aside the word of God and that replaced the righteousness contained within the legitimate observance of God’s word with a righteousness devised by mere men. Romans 10:1-3 teaches this quite clearly. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer

to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

There are those today who suggest that the idea of having ANY system whereby one may suggest that one is righteous, is an effort to establish one’s own righteousness. This, however, is NOT what Jesus taught. Jesus taught that the system of righteousness by which the Scribes and Pharisees proclaimed their own righteousness must be EXCEEDED for one to be righteous. And truly, we have a system of righteousness by which we must be saved today and which exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees. Romans 1:16, 17 states, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” God’s righteousness today is found in the gospel.

To hear what many say today regarding the subject of righteousness, one would think that there is nothing that one may do, whether given by God or not, that is involved in making man righteous. Such is not the case. The fact of the matter is that one may be righteous when one follows the system of righteousness that has been given to us by God. John writes, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous” (1 John 3:7). It is not in the fact that one accepts God’s system of righteousness and follows it that one is self-righteous, but rather, when one invents/devises one’s own system of righteousness that one is self-

“Self-Righteousness” (cont.)

righteous. This is what the Scribes and Pharisees did. They invented/devised their own system of righteousness.

There are those today who say that because we worship upon the first day of the week, partake of the Lord’s supper upon the first day of the week, refuse to use instruments of music, suggest that the church has a system of worship which she must do, that the church has an organization that we must observe, that the church has a mission which she must keep, and many other things—that because we demand that such things be practiced and observed, that we are creating a righteousness of our own, that we are creating a system of righteousness which God did not create. Such is not the case. In fact, it is just the opposite. The things that we demand that others observe and practice are things that are found within God’s word. In contrast, it is those who suggest that we NOT practice such things that set aside the word of God that they may keep their own tradition.

Where, within the scriptures, is it suggested that the Lord’s supper may, by the church, be observed

upon any day other than the first day of the week? There is no such passage. However, those who suggest that we may so observe the supper state that it is due only to our “tradition” that the Lord’s supper be observed upon Sunday. What they fail to recognize was that the scriptures record that the Lord’s supper was observed by the church upon Sunday (Acts 20:7), and not upon any other day of the week. Those who suggest that we may observe the Lord’s supper upon some other day of the week, trans-



gress the word of God to keep their own traditions.

Where, within the scriptures, is it suggested that singing, by the church, may be performed as ac-

companied by mechanical instruments of music? There is no such passage. However, those who suggest that we so sing without their accompaniment, suggest that it is only due to our “tradition” that we do not use the instrument. Again, these fail to recognize that the scriptures record that the church sang praises to God (1 Cor.14:15; Col.3:16) and that nowhere in scripture is it recorded that they played instruments. Those who suggest that we may sing praises to God as accompanied by the instrument

transgress the word of God to keep their own traditions.

Example upon example could be multiplied to show that it is in actuality those who suggest that we abandon our scriptural practices who are seeking to transgress the word of God so that they can keep their own traditions. We wonder, who is seeking to establish their own righteousness and who is seeking to submit to the righteousness of God? If we desire for our righteousness to exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, then we will be satisfied with the answers that we find within the word of God, and not seek to supplant such answers with the traditions of men.

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 7/25/04

Morning	An Overview of God’s Home
Scripture.....	Genesis 1:26-28
Evening	To Be A Servant
Scripture.....	Matthew 20:20-28
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Minor Prophets: Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 7/18/04

Sunday Class.....	51
Sunday A.M.	72
Sunday P.M.	54
Wednesday	53
Contribution.....	\$1607.65
Budget	\$1778.13

It's Not Over!

About a week and a half ago, the U.S. Senate voted not to vote on the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. The Democrats launched a filibuster against the Amendment so that it would never come to a vote and there were not enough votes to end the filibuster. But the truth is that the Senators **did** vote on this issue. Their vote in reference to the filibuster tells us where their concerns were along this line. The overall vote was basically along party lines, though, a handful of Republicans voted against it and less than a handful of Democrats voted for it, despite the fact, that the calls in support of the Amendment were almost 50 to 1 in the Senate offices. Arkansas' Senators both voted against ending the filibuster, which in essence means that they didn't want to support the Federal Marriage

Amendment. Now, I don't know about you, but I have a personal problem with someone who is not interested in supporting the very simple and basic idea of marriage being one man and one woman in this country. So, I plan on remembering



just that when I go to the polls this fall and I hope you will as well.

In the mean time, the house of Representatives is planning on taking up this issue in August. We will be able once again to support God's plan for marriage in this country by calling our

representatives and letting them know where we stand and what we expect them to do on this issue. I will be letting you know about more details in this regard as the date and time comes closer. We also have a state-wide issue to vote concerning as well and that will be happening this fall too at the polls. So I hope that we will not let this small setback in the Senate discourage our along this line. We need to be patient and stand up for what is right and not give any ground. We can win this fight if we continue to do what is right and stand up for righteousness and never give up. It's not over yet!

Kevin's Korner

It was truly a delight to be able to go to Heber Springs and hold a meeting for the Downtown church of Christ this past week. I am very grateful to the eldership and the church here at Berryville for allowing me such opportunities. I must also pass along the gratitude of the brethren in Heber Springs as well. They were very thankful for the elders and congregation here in Berryville for supporting me in the full time preaching and teaching of God's word and were very encouraging along that line.

I found the Downtown church of Christ in Heber Springs to be folks who were truly concerned about walking in the Old Paths. The brethren there were very hospitable to me and my family while there. The meals they prepared were truly delicious

and they sought to minister to us in physical things while we minister to them in spiritual (1 Corinthians 9:11).

The city of Heber Springs was also a wonderful place to visit. Since we had to be out of the motel room each day for cleaning, we took that time to look around Heber Springs and learn more about the city. The city has a wonderful park that the boys really enjoyed. Other items of interest were the Greer's Ferry Dam visitors center, the fish hatchery, and the various Army Corp of Engineering parks that surrounded Greer's Ferry Lake.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the brethren there were speaking of what a great success it was. I, personally, had no means to gauge the meeting's success, but they were speaking of how some who were out of duty had been present, how there were visitors there who heard messages that they needed to hear, and that the church

there was greatly encouraged by the preaching and teaching of the gospel. This was greatly encouraging for me as well and we left Heber Springs with a very thankful spirit that our prayers and yours concerning the success of the meeting had been answered. Once again, thank you, dear Christian friends at Berryville, for your support and prayers in this effort at preaching the gospel.

Elders:

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

Deacons:

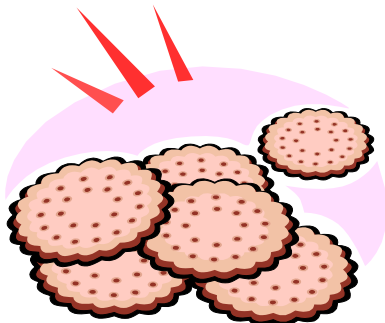
Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

Praise, 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!
- Lucille Fort had outpatient surgery this past Thursday, July 22nd. She is currently at home with Bill caring for her. I know that she could use our prayers.
- Let us also remember the following individuals in our prayers: Gary Bragg, Ora Cauley, Daisy Farmer, Curtis Hull, Reck Wallace.
- A special note of thanks to those who filled in for me this past week. I heard that both speakers did a wonderful job. Thank you brothers Chris McCurley and Richard White for your efforts.
- Our yearly youth rally is getting close! It is scheduled for August 27-28. Let's make our plans to be there and support this effort of teaching and edification. Let's also be sure to pray for the success of this event.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting will be next Sunday evening after services. If you have any items for that meeting, please be sure to see one of the participants.
- Next Sunday, Kevin will be preaching a gospel meeting in Stark City, Missouri. In his absence, brother J.R. Burr from Stark City will preach. Kevin will be in town during the week during this meeting.
- Art Robert's lunch list is in need of volunteers. Please see the bulletin board if you wish to help.
- The pantry item for this week is Snack Crackers.



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 25th, 2004	August 1st, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	J.R. Burr
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Glenn Quigley	Larry Elliott
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
(assist)	Bob Moore	George Eddings
	Clay Bozarth	Jerry Roller
	Dan Hand	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Clay Bozarth
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	J.R. Burr
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Scripture Reading:	Jack Gentry	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Larry Elliott	Dale Pinkley
	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Matt Bassing	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	John Gass
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bob Moore

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