



“Loose Cannons”

Reading through the news today, I came across an article on one of the presidential candidates wherein one of his former military commanders had said that he was a “loose cannon.” Just the other day, Maxine was telling me about a man who claimed to be a “loose cannon” religiously; we took that as meaning that he didn’t attend at any one particular church. And just the other day, I was listening to a CD narrative of the battle of Gettysburg which we purchased while we were on our family vacation this year; it reminded me of just what a “loose cannon” was. When the soldiers attending to a cannon were all wounded, captured, or killed, then the cannon would be turned around by the opposing force and aimed in the other direction back at those to whom it originally belonged. A “loose cannon” can be a very dangerous thing.

Just from looking at these thoughts behind the idea of a “loose cannon,” three different pictures emerge. The first idea represented is that of lack of respect for authority. That is, the individual who is described by his superior as a loose cannon doesn’t know how to respect the chain of command; he is an authority to himself, but respects no other authority. Second, the individual who described himself as a “loose cannon” represents himself as having no affiliation with one side or another. And third, the actual loose cannon on the battlefield represents the idea of something that has been captured and is now being used by the enemy. Christians ought not to be “loose cannons” in any of the senses indicated above.

First, Christians are to respect authority. We are first and foremost to respect the authority of our Lord who has been given all authority (Matthew 28:18) over all flesh (John 17:2). We respect Christ’s authority by looking to His word for everything that we say and do in service to Him in His kingdom (Colossians 3:17). Second, we are to respect the authority of those who are in places of authority such as parents (Ephesians 6:1, 2), eld-

ers (Hebrews 13:17), and government leaders (Romans 13:1-6). Jude says of those false teachers in his day that they are those who do not respect authority (Jude 1:8). Let’s not be guilty of being a “loose cannon” in not respecting authority.

Second, Christians are to be affiliated with something, namely, Christ and His church. All those who are baptized into Christ are baptized into Christ’s body (1 Corinthians 12:13), which is His church (Colossians 1:18). Christians belong to Christ and are members of his body, the church. Unfortunately, denominationalism has blurred many people’s understanding regarding the one true church of Christ, and caused them to think that they need not be “affiliated” with any “church”/denomination. Truthfully, no Christian ought to be affiliated with a denomination, but all ought to be affiliated with Christ’s church. To not be affiliated with the church of Christ is to abandon the head of the church himself, Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:22). It is to take oneself out from among the saved (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23). It is to remove oneself from those who are called saints (1 Corinthians 1:2). Let’s not be guilty of being a “loose cannon” by not being affiliated with the church of Christ (Matthew 16:18).

Third, Christians are not to be captured and used by the enemy. We have an enemy, no doubt! (Matthew 13:39) And we, as Christians, must take up the whole armor of God and fight! (Ephesians 6:11) Our enemy is not flesh and blood but that which exalts itself against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:3, 4). How tragic, then, should we be captured by our enemy and turned to fight God! Yet some have done this very thing. How? 1) By seeking worldliness. The friend of the world is the enemy of God (James 4:4). 2) By being apathetic toward God (Revelation 3:16). We’re not supposed to be lukewarm as Christians. 3) By looking to satisfy self (Philippians 3:18). We’re not of those whose god is their belly. Let’s resolve not to be captured by the enemy, and never be a “loose cannon.”

Sharing Our Hope!

In the stress filled moments of our lives, having no visible means for encouraging strength, our desperate hands often clutch for that intangible called, "hope." Hope tells us to press on when everything else tells us to give up. Where would we be, what would we do, without hope?

There are literally billions of people living today who have no hope in the most significant of all considerations, eternal life. These are like unto those, "which have no hope", that Paul described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13. No hope for salvation. Once in their grave, their doom is "sealed" - hell awaits.

How fortunate and blessed we Christians are in having the "Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope" (1 Tim. 1:1). We have hope in this life (Tit. 2:12-13), and we have hope beyond the grave (Psa. 23:4). Because Christ conquered death for us (Heb. 2:14; cf. 1 Cor. 15:54-57; Col. 2:15) - eternal life in heaven awaits us (1 Pet. 1:3-4).

Our hope must be shared with the lost. Peter told us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you." (1 Pet.

3:15). As Christians, we should be giving hope to the hopeless by giving life to the spiritually dead by means of the gospel (Mk. 16:15-16).

We need not go into the jungles of foreign lands, nor cross the oceans of the world, to find those without that most glorious hope. Over two hundred million people are presently without hope in the United States.

Lost, hopeless, and dying people are living in the shadows of our homes and church buildings. Can we say along with Paul, "Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men" (Acts 20:26 - ASV)?

Mike Riley
El Paso, TX



The Tongue Is Ugly...

- When it curses (James 3:10),
- When it flatters (Psalm 12:3),
- When it speaks evil (Ephesians 4:1),
- When it lies (Revelation 21:8),
- When it bears tales (Leviticus 19:16),
- When it criticizes (Matthew 5:22),
- When it backbites (Romans 1:30),
- When it boasts (Romans 1:30),
- When it speaks idly (Matthew 12:36),
- When it deceives (Romans 3:13),
- When it is false (Titus 1:10-11),
- When it reviles (1 Corinthians 6:10),
- When it is foolish (Ephesians 5:4),
- When it whispers (Romans 1:29),
- When it blasphemes (Colossians 3:8),
- When it is filthy (Colossians 3:8),
- When it is crooked (Proverbs 4:24).

How guilty is your tongue?

Selected

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 8/15/04

Morning	Things That Unite—One Spirit
Scripture	Ephesians 4:1-6
Evening	The Other Prodigal Son
Scripture	Luke 15:21-32
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Minor Prophets—Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 8/8/04

Sunday Class	61
Sunday A.M.	83
Sunday P.M.	54
Wednesday	55
Contribution	\$2308.45
Budget	\$1778.13

God Is Greater

G remember playing with my friends and neighbors, when I was growing up, and we would say to each other that 'my dad is bigger than your dad.' Or perhaps, 'my house is bigger than your house.' We would always try and say that whatever it was we had was bigger. Why? Cause we were proud of what we had.

Not long ago I was driving along a road not often traveled, I saw a simple home painted sign about 2ft by 3ft hanging in a live oak tree. The sign simply stated, "God is Greater." I kept thinking about how appropriate that statement was -- no "greater than," just "greater." There is nothing to make comparison with -- no being, no object, no concept, therefore

God is not just greatest; He is greater. "For when God made promise to Abraham because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself..." (Hebrews 6:13).

Whenever you are confronted by selfishness or materialism, remem-

ber no matter what -- "God is greater." When you suffer from pain, persecution, or anxiety, remember that no matter what besets you, "God is greater." Let these words ring out and sink into your hearts, "Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art, how great Thou art."



No matter what it is that we face in life, God will help us through. Whether we are facing death - God will help us through to the other side, if we are a faithful child of God. Perhaps we are having a tough time at work or at school or at home. He will help us if we are true and faithful to Him.

Yes God is greater.

Via Seed for Thought
Ward Street church of Christ
Hardy, AR

Kevin's Korner

With the last full week of summer school vacation behind us, we enter into yet another year of school activities. This coming Thursday begins the school year for students at Berryville, as well as for students at Eureka Springs. Many are excited to go back to school, but for reasons other than learning. Some miss their friends; some want to see how others have changed over the summer; yet others want to know what those with whom they have not been in contact have been up to. Starting a new school year is indeed exciting.

I always remember that kind of dumb, helpless feeling that you get when you see friends that you haven't seen for nearly three months for the first time again in the new school year. You kind of look at them like, "Yup, I

know who you are, but I have no idea where to start." Good thing that you got another nine months or so to figure it out. Soon, everyone settles in for the year and the new routine is the old routine.

The new routine is the old routine, hmm, it can kind of get that way for Christians as well. It is easy for us, as Christians, to think, "all I got to do is keep on doing the same thing I'm doing right now and I've got it made." But you know, that's not necessarily the way God works. Just when we think we got it figured out, wham!—things change. There is no "old routine" when we are serving God. All things are become new (2 Cor.5:17). Whether we continue being the "new man" that God wants us to be, or whether we sink back into our "old ways" is up to us.

God is constantly challenging us to examine ourselves (2 Cor.13:5) and

find the weak points and, yes!, make correction and move on toward perfection (Phil.3:14). Every day, new challenges are set before us and God wants us to deal with them according to the new mind that we have as Christians. We must always be learning and growing in the Lord. We will, one day, take the final exam, so we prepare today! Sounds kind of like going back to school, don't it?

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: Ora Cauley, Opal Hull, Jim McVey, David Stevens, Luther Stubbs, Iola Trost.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull, Edith Mischler, Art Roberts.
- Our annual youth rally is coming up quick! Make your plans to be here on August 27th, 28th. Please be inviting your friends to come to this great event! Check with Rusty if you can help in any way.
- Today is our potluck Sunday. If you are visiting with us, please join us for a meal after our morning worship has ended.
- The Cassville church of Christ is hosting a "Back to School Blastoff" this evening. All of our young people in 5th grade and up are invited to attend.
- Next Sunday afternoon, will be our annual excursion to lost valley. Pack a lunch!
- In just two weeks, we have our quarterly singing at the nursing home. I sure hope that everyone plans to come. Those folks especially enjoy seeing our young people visit them.
- Flyers for our upcoming gospel meeting are in the back. Please pick on up and start inviting your friends and family today!
- The pantry item for this week is Canned Spinach.



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

	August 15th, 2004	August 22nd, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Glenn Quigley	Leon Duncan
	Larry Elliott	Glenn Williams
(assist)	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
	Jack Gentry	George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	George Eddings
Scripture Reading:	Dale Pinkley	Jack Gentry
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Brent Moore	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Wednesday		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Ray Duncan

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