



# Berryville Bible Beacon

## Lawful Crown

"**Q**nd every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor.9:25 ASV).

Perhaps you have watched some of the Olympic Games this past week. If you have, then you have watched while athletes from all over the world have competed to win the coveted gold medal. Several athletes have won multiple medals. Competing in the games, however, is not the sum total of the efforts these athletes have expended. Some have trained for many months, others for years, simply to participate in the events. But to win a medal, well, that is an honor above honors.

You may have noticed in watching some of the awards ceremonies that the athletes have been receiving crowns made of olive leaves. In former years, we have not seen this at the Olympic Games. It is something that is unique to the games being in the nation of Greece. In the original Olympic Games (which were held from around 770 B.C. to 300 A.D., a period of over 1000 years) it was this crown of olive leaves for which the athletes competed.

In 1 Corinthians 9:25 Paul alludes to these games with which the Christians at Corinth would have been familiar. Some of these Christians may have known a friend who participated in these games; some may have participated themselves. They were familiar with these games through their own personal experience. They, like we, knew the efforts and struggles expended in order to compete and win the prize. The word for "strive" in this verse is the Greek word "AGONIZOMAI." One can almost hear the word "agonize" when pronouncing that word. So when Paul makes reference to these games,

they, and we, know the degree to which we must go to be faithful to Christ and to win the crown.

In the Greek language, there were two words for "crown." The word used in this context is from the Greek word "STEFANOS." We get the English name Stephen from this word. Matthew, Mark, and John use this word to describe the "crown" of thorns that was placed on Jesus' head before his crucifixion. In addition to 1 Corinthians 9:25, Paul uses the word to describe the saints at Philippi for whom he labored (Philippians 4:1), the saints at Thessalonica as well (1 Thessalonians 2:19), the crown of lawful victory (2 Timothy 2:5), and the crown of righteousness which all the faithful will receive at life's end (2 Timothy 4:8). James uses this word to speak concerning the Christian's crown of life (James 1:12), Peter, the crown of glory that the chief shepherd will give (1 Peter 5:4), and Jesus, the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).



In discussing our efforts to obtain this crown, Paul makes it clear that we cannot obtain this crown unlawfully. 2 Timothy 2:5

states, "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." As Christians, we must ensure that we are striving, training ourselves on a daily basis, and doing so lawfully, that is, under the banner of Christ's covenant today. Sadly, there have been some athletes who have not participated in our Olympic games because of unlawful activities. It would be even sadder still, for one who professes to be a Christian to enter eternity in such a situation. Let us resolve, therefore, to discipline ourselves each day, to strive for the crown, and to do so lawfully that one day we may have that crown of righteousness!

# How Can Parents Prepare Their Children To Resist "Peer Pressure" To Do Evil?

The biological power in a husband and wife team to produce a child in no way serves as a guarantee that these same two will be successful in the total rearing of the child. Too many parents feel that when they feed, clothe, shelter, secularly educate, provide medically, and see that a child receives proper recreation the awesome parental obligation has been attained, maintained, and concluded. The foregoing concepts leave out the spiritual aspect which includes a threefold obligation--duties toward one's own soul, the souls of others, and toward the heavenly maker of men or God Almighty. Involved in that spiritual aspect is the proper preparation of enabling a child to RESIST what some deem to be an almost IRRESISTIBLE pressure of the day, that which comes from one's peers to do wrong. The truth of the matter is that some parents WILL NOT and CANNOT provide such preparation in the parent-child relationship. Others can and do. The thrust of this article will touch briefly both groups.

## Parents Who Will Not and Cannot

Some parents see no problem here. They do not sense much wrong in any action except that which may get a child into trouble with the law and land him/her behind bars. Such parents, unlike Jesus, have never learned to hate iniquity and love righteousness (Psalm 45:6-7; Heb 1:8-9). Unlike the Psalmist they have; never

learned to "esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right" and thus to "hate every evil way" (Psalm 119:128). With no cognizance of right or wrong in moral and ethical realms themselves, they are in no position whatsoever to prepare their children against "peer pressure" to do wrong. They will not do such; they cannot do such with their present philosophy of life.

Some parents cannot do so effectively because they themselves do not resist "peer pressure" to do wrong. They may have a surface set of moral values to which they give lip service only but utterly fail to practice such themselves. It becomes hollow mockery for parents to TELL children not to follow a majority to do evil when children know parents do not live up to the vocally set standard themselves. They know Daddy will not resist taking a drink when out with the boys. They know Mother has given in joining her feminine friends with smoking, drinking a bit, cursing a little, ambling, and lax in her dress, when with the immodest element, is no different than her peers wear. Children who see their parents almost bankrupt themselves to keep up with the proverbial Jones family next door, at church, or as business associates will never be influenced by these same parents who are big with a talking game in this regard but little on action.

How effective could an adulterous David be in encouraging his children not to give in to peer pressure to commit fornication just after the Bath-

sheba incident in 2 Samuel 11? How effective could a permissive Eli be for Hophni and Phinehas not to give in to permissive actions as practiced by their peers? How effective could King Manasseh be with Amon, his son, not to give in to his peers who loved to worship idols? How effective could Ahab be in teaching daughter Athaliah not to give in to peer pressure to engage in wrongdoing when she saw her father constantly bowing to peer pressure exerted by Jezebel? How effective could Solomon have been with Rehoboam about not giving in to peer pressure relative to the having of more than one wife?

## Parents Who Can and Do

These are the parents who meet not only the needs their children have physically but major also in meeting their spiritual needs. These are the parents who, like Zacharias and Elisabeth, are righteous and walk in all the commandments of the Lord in blameless fashion (Luke 1:6). These are the parents who like Eunice and Lois, possess an unfeigned faith and pass it on to their precious offspring (2 Tim 1:5). These are the parents who, like Jesus, love righteousness and hate iniquity (Psalm 45:6-7; Heb 1:8-9). These are the parents who, like Abraham, train and teach the children the right way to think, speak, and act (Gen 18:19). These are the parents who, like Joshua, declare that the entire household will serve Jehovah (Josh 24:15). They are like Jonadab, son of Rechab, and teach

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 8/22/04

Morning .....	"He's My King"
Scripture .....	1 Timothy 6:13-16
Evening .....	"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"
Scripture .....	Genesis 4:8, 9
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	Children's Home Presentation
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	Minor Prophets: Micah

## Weekly Record

Week of 8/15/04

Sunday Class .....	65
Sunday A.M. ....	80
Sunday P.M. ....	51
Wednesday .....	55
Contribution .....	\$2062.69
Budget .....	\$1778.13

## I Don't Do Broken Bones

**W**e live in an age of specialists, and their presence complicates life. Who has heard of the maid who proudly proclaims, "I don't do windows." No longer can you just go to the doctor; you must find one who treats exactly what ails you. There are doctors who treat feet, those who work on the head, those who work on the nerves, and doctors for almost every part of the body. Believe it or not, such specialization has entered the realm of "faith healers." Lewis Grizzard related an experience at one of the "healing" meetings he attended.

It seems that one of the faith healers (Ray Dodd Hembree) had come to his home town, and a school teacher, Miss Inez Pickett, came to him with a kidney disorder. Following his prayer, she began to jump around the platform, rejoicing over her "cure." She became so excited that she fell off

the platform and broke her leg. When someone suggested that an ambulance be called, another remarked, "No need for that, just get Brother Ray Dodd to heal her." When they turned to him, his reply was, "I don't do broken bones, just vital organs." What a golden opportunity missed! One broken bone mended in the sight of the audience could be worthy thousands of unseen kidney-ailment cures.

What a contrast between modern "faith healers" and those of the first century. "...All they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them!" (Luke 4:40). Why can't men see such differences? Will they ever learn the difference between the counterfeit and the genuine?

Dan Jenkins  
via *Glad Tidings of Good Things*

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their children not to drink wine (Jer 35:1ff).

Modern parents can best teach and prepare their children to resist "peer pressure" to do wrong by practicing such a courageous concept themselves and doing it consistently. Then their teaching will have teeth embedded therein. The child from infancy should be molded to love God and Jesus and consider what they say as being far, Far, FAR more important than what a peer might pressure one to do. Homes that are truly Christian where fathers and mothers pray, study the Bible, live Christ before their children and NEVER miss an assembly of the church are best fitted to prepare children to resist "peer pressure" to follow a crowd into wrongdoing (Ex 23:21).

Robert Taylor Jr. (1985)  
via *Seed For Thought*

## Kevin's Korner

**L**ife in Berryville has been pretty good this past week. This past Monday, we met Jerry, Carolyn, Pat and John up at the Mills Creek camp ground, just south of Kimberling City at Table Rock Lake in Missouri. We really did have an enjoyable time. We took the boys bicycles and scooters, a bucket of hickory wood for the camp fire, and some soda and cookies from Wal-mart. Dinner consisted of flame-kissed hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs—se magnifique! (One of my online friends tells me I talk too much about food, so I better stop here before I get into trouble.) The boys enjoyed catching little perch and blue gills and Jerry caught a pretty good sized flat-head catfish. We played "train" after it got dark and finally went home—late.

The next morning the phone rang at

7:00 A.M. This is when I found out about sister Virginia Blansett who has cancer and is not expected to live very much longer. Her husband, Donald Blansett, had expressed interest in studying the Bible, and so I went over to their house Tuesday morning to visit. We had a good talk and I learned more about their situation. I was also able to visit with Virginia's sisters, one of whom lives in Harrison, and the other in Pangburn, AR. They requested my services for the time of sister Virginia's passing. I affirmed for them that I would be honored to serve in any way they deemed fit. Please pray for this family.

This past Thursday afternoon, I started a Bible study class at the nursing home at 2:00 PM. One of the residents there (Wells McCall) requested that I hold a short class on a regular basis. I mentioned this to the activities coordinator and she was

extremely open and really receptive to the idea (especially after the Jehovah's Witnesses caused such a ruckus a few months back!). So a schedule was set and the activity begun! Of course, all are welcome to come to this Bible Study. We will meet every Thursday afternoon at 2:00 PM and study for about 20-25 minutes. Our study is in the book of Matthew right now.

### Elders:

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

### Deacons:

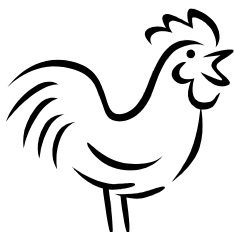
Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### 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!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Opal Hull, Jim McVey, Iola Trost.
- Remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Art Roberts, a long time member of the church here in Berryville, will be leaving Berryville for a residence in Houston, Texas. This is so that Art's son may be better able to care for him in his remaining years. This week, Art will hop on an airplane and fly to Houston, TX. Art has been around for many years and he will be missed. We bid him God speed and hope to see him again one day in our eternal home.
- Bill and Lucille Fort will be out traveling for the next two weeks. Please remember them in your prayers.
- This afternoon, we will be going to Lost Valley for our annual excursion. This is really a great trip; I hope you have planned on going!
- **This coming Friday and Saturday is our annual youth rally! Our speaker is Jason Almond from Perryville, AR. Have you invited your friends? Please do so this week! If you would like to help with youth rally needs, please see Rusty Windle.**
- Next Sunday afternoon, we have our quarterly singing at the nursing home. I hope you will make plans to attend this event at 2:00 PM.
- Flyers for our upcoming gospel meeting are in foyer. Please pick up one of these and be handing them out to friends and family.
- The pantry item for this week is Canned Chicken.



## 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 22nd, 2004	August 29th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Glenn Quigley
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Dan Hand
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Brent Moore	Jack Gentry
	George Eddings	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Hugh Atchley
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Jack Gentry	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Ray Duncan
	Jerry Roller	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Brent Moore	Bob Moore
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Williams
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Larry Elliott
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bob Moore

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