



The Pen is Mightier Than The Penknife

Jeremiah records in chapter 36 the history of King Jehoiakim's rejection of prophecy. In verses 1-8, Jeremiah asks Baruch, a scribe, to write the prophecies on a scroll and then take them to the temple and read them before the people. Verses 9-19 tell of how one Michaiah heard the prophecy and had Baruch read the scroll before the leaders of the people in the chambers of Elishama the scribe. Upon hearing the message, the leaders desired to tell the king the message. In verses 20-26, the king heard the message and then commanded that the scroll be brought to him. He then took the scroll cut it up with a scribe's knife and cast it into the fire to be burned. Then he commanded that Jeremiah and Baruch be captured. Fortunately, God had other plans for them and told Jeremiah of what had been done. So Jeremiah re-recorded the prophecies that had been written on the first scroll, to be saved for the ages. Jeremiah's work is still around today, but who is Jehoiakim?

There have been many efforts throughout the ages to destroy the Bible. Kings and rulers have tried to squelch its message by destroying all known copies only to have those words preserved in the caves and crannies of time. The Roman Catholics chained the Bible to the pulpit in the middle ages to keep the average person from reading it, but Guttenberg's press set it free. Skeptics have proclaimed its downfall only to see the increase of the Bible and a decrease of their own pathetic words. The Bible has stood the test of time and survived; Jesus' prophecy continues to hold true today, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

But Satan is crafty and doesn't give up easily. There is now a new, modern effort, to cause Jesus words to vanish into obscurity. This modern day effort is more subtle and guised in seemingly honorable intentions. Many have already accepted this effort at destroying the words of God without even knowing that God's words are being destroyed. To what am I referring? The bane of modern day translations.

Yes, Satan has learned that he cannot destroy God's word by burning it, chaining it,

churning it or spurning it. He hasn't even been able to use "science" to destroy the Bible. So his methods have shifted from seeking to destroy the Bible from without to seeking to destroy it from within. Satan has learned that if you can convince those who read the Bible that they are too dumb to understand it, then you can get them to ask for an easy-to-read translation. Then, Satan can use translators to make subtle, but critical, differences in translation so that you will believe Satan's lies instead of God's truth.

One such example is found in the "Good As New" translation that was recently endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the practical leader of the church of England (the Queen is the official "head of the church"). The "Good As New" translation changes baptism for the remission of sins in Mark 1:4 to baptism to show that one has already been forgiven of sins. It inserts profanities into the scriptures in at least one place. Perhaps most appallingly, however, is that it changes the terms "husband" and "wife" into the politically correct "partner" implying that one may practice fornication or even homosexuality in order to satisfy one's sexual desires. There are other translations whose changes are not so obvious and much more subtle. We should carefully examine all "new translations" before adopting them wholesale.

Like all other efforts, this new effort on Satan's part at trying to destroy God's word will ultimately fail and God's true word will be glorified. But how many souls will fail to recognize that before it is too late? God never promised that his word would be "easy to understand" in the sense that many today expect God's word to read like a dime store novel. No. God has always said that His word requires a modicum of effort on our part. Indeed we must "Study" (give diligence) to show ourselves approved unto God, search the scriptures daily to see if what is being taught is truth (Acts 17:11), try the prophets because there are many false teachers in the world (1 John 4:1) and speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). God's word can be understood (Ephesians 3:3-5), but we must study it, learn it, and live it.

The Slavery of Freedom

Christians need to consider carefully scriptures dealing with freedom. Two passages in the New Testament are significant. First, consider Galatians 5:1.

"For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage." Several years ago a man who was supposed to be a Gospel preacher was heard to say something like this, "I will not allow anyone to interfere with my liberty in Christ." As he said those words, he was enslaved to tobacco and soon left the Lord's church for some element of denominationalism. Is this the meaning Inspiration had in mind in Galatians 5:1? Before considering another passage on Christian freedom, notice Inspiration's words in Psalm 119:160, "The sum of Thy word is truth..." If an individual desires to obtain the correct total of God's word, the one and only total God will accept, then he must gather all God has said on every particular subject and take the sum. We must "sum" God's word carefully, adding in all that He added in and subtracting all that He subtracted. Romans 1:6-14 also discusses Christian liberty. Please take time to read this passage, then consider these excerpts which are used contextually.

"What shall we say then? shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" This question is directed to Christians. It is important because the point was made in Romans 5:20-21 that where sin abounded, God's grace came in and abounded more to deal with the sin. Should we (as some of those Christians may have done) draw the conclusion that we should sin more so that

God's grace may abound more? Consider Inspiration's reaction in Romans 6:2, "God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein?" "God forbid." Nothing could be further from the truth than thinking that a Christian can sin without impunity. The responsibility of a Christian is greater, not lesser in doing what is correct before God and by God's definition. For a Christian, not doing right is as great a sin as doing what which is wrong, James 4:17. Inspiration goes on to say in Romans 6:11, "Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." "Dead unto sin." What a thought. One enters into Christ through the application of the blood of Christ as love responds to love in obedience to the will of Christ, Romans 6:17; Hebrews 9:15-17. The results of this obedience to "that form of doctrine" will be the thought found in Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace." Christian freedom is not allowing sin to reign over us, but reigning, ourselves, over sin through the forgiveness in Christ. The process of forgiveness is detailed in Romans 6:3-5. Inspiration sums up that process in Romans 6:16-18. "Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." In throwing off slavery to

sin, one must take on slavery to Christ; slavery to righteousness. Actually, living is simply a choice between two forms of slavery. One to sin with all its horror and fearful finality. The other to Christ with all its peace and eternal life. Slavery! It seems significant that Inspiration wrote these words to Christians. We need constantly to be reminded that we are to walk in newness of life.

Foy G. Forehand

**Happy Birthday/
Anniversary!**

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

Birthdays

Maxine Whitely.....6th
 George Eddings.....10th
 Naomi Elliott.....17th
 Braden Stevens.....21st
 Hunter Stevens22nd
 Lucille Fort.....25th
 Donna Brown26th
 Daisy Farmer.....26th
 Chelsea Williams30th

Anniversaries

Dan and Hewetta.....16th

If a birthday or anniversary is not listed here, **please** let me know so

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 9/05/04

Morning	Contentment
Scripture.....	1 Timothy 6:6-12
Evening	Secret Things?
Scripture.....	2 Kings 17:9
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	The Book of Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 8/29/04

Sunday Class.....	57
Sunday A.M.	79
Sunday P.M.	61
Wednesday	62
Contribution.....	\$1516.60
Budget	\$1778.13

Gospel Meeting

You're invited to attend our fall gospel meeting and Bible study with Foy Forehand, Gospel Preacher.



October 10-13, Sun:
9:30 AM, 10:20,
6:00 PM. Mon-Wed
at 7:00 PM.

We are located
on Hwy 62 right
across from Pizza
Hut

In the Kingdom of King Jesus!

- What is the kingdom of Jesus?
- How does one become a citizen of the kingdom of Jesus?
- What are the essential characteristics of the kingdom of Jesus?
- The religion of the kingdom of Jesus.
- The spread of the kingdom of Jesus.
- Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom of Jesus?

Tel: 870-423-3068

Kevin's Korner

Mary Lynn and I are very pleased to announce that our third child will be a boy. Yes, and then there were three. I crunched the numbers the other day and after my calculator's solar powered battery went dead (just kidding), I figured out that I would be 54 years old when this child turned 18. That sounds just about right to me, but the books aren't closed on that account just yet. We don't have any names picked out right now, but are taking suggestions. Mary Lynn has already thrown out Mahershalalhashbaz, as disappointed as I was.

I have also been working very hard this past week on a new web site effort that the eldership has approved. A missionary in Brazil named, Randal Matheny, has been running an online magazine for the past several years.

The URL is <http://www.forthright.net>. Randal has agreed to bring the magazine under the oversight of the elders here at Berryville in exchange for space on our web server along with all of the nifty tools that we have on our web server to help publish the magazine. This online Bible study has articles updated every day and should attract a lot of Internet attention once we get everything set up and in place. I started writing a column for the magazine about a month ago titled "Basic Greek." So we should have everything ready in another month or so. In the mean time you can visit the magazine at its current location at the above URL.

This past week I also became the Cub Master for Berryville Cub Scout Pack 128. I'm going to try to do this volunteer work instead of working at the school this year. Larry Elliott and Charles are also part of the pack here in Berryville. We are starting out kind

of thin because so many left last year to become full fledged Boy Scouts. So if you would like for your boys to get involved in Cub Scouts, now would be a great time. If you do, let me know and I will call you to get further information. Personally, I believe that this is going to be a very exciting year for Cub Scouts and I believe your boys will really enjoy being a part of the program this year.

Elders:

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

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

- 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!
- We express our deepest condolences to the family of Virginia Blansett who passed from this life into the next this past Friday morning. A memorial services will be held at the Berryville cemetery Tuesday at 2:00 PM.
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Gary Bragg, Pat Foster, Jim McVey, Bill Powell, Darrell Roberts, Jack Sears, Helen Swink.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull and Edith Mischler.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting is tonight. If you have business to discuss please see one of these men.
- We rejoice with the family of Charles Elliott who was baptized last Sunday.
- Ladies Bible class recommences this week on Wednesday at 10:30 A.M. We will be studying the book of 2nd Peter.
- Men's breakfast is Saturday morning at 7:00 A.M. Please make your plans to attend and invite a friend.
- Next Sunday evening will be questions and answers. If you have a Bible question please put it in Kevin's box.
- Our gospel meeting is just around the corner! Are you inviting others?
- There will be a youth rally, November 13th in Yellville. See Rusty for details.
- If you would like to have a "Truth for Today" commentary, they are in the back. Each book is \$28.50 a piece.
- The pantry item for this week is peanut butter.



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

September 5th, 2004 September 12th, 2004

	September 5th, 2004	September 12th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
Scripture Reading:	Jerry Roller	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Dan Hand
	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Brent Moore	Raymond Kimes
	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	John Gass
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
Scripture Reading:	George Eddings	Glenn Williams
Lord's Table	Brandon Foster	Leon Duncan
	Jerry Roller	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Dan Hand
Invitation:	Dale Pinkley	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley

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