

Berryville Bible Beacon

If It Won't Go, Don't Force It. Get a Bigger Hammer.

Aircraft factories deal with significantly small tolerances. Hundredths of an inch are big. Thousandths of an inch are normal. It becomes sort of a joke when, dealing with something fragile, small and very expensive, that someone says, "If it won't go, don't force it. Get a bigger hammer." In spiritual matters we are dealing with the most fragile and most important thing of all - the soul and its eternity. Yet the religious world has this attitude - If you can't find it in the New Testament, GET A BIGGER HAMMER. What are some of the bigger hammers used in religious circles today?

One claimed bigger hammer is, "My family has always believed this." Jesus had something to say about family authority in regard to religious, spiritual matters. In Matthew 10:34-37 Jesus said, "Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother...He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me..." In Mark 3:31-35 Jesus gave the perfect example as we read, "And there come his mother and his brethren; and, standing without, they sent unto him, calling him. And a multitude was sitting about him; and they say unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answereth them, and saith, Who is my mother and my brethren? And looking round on them that sat round about him, he saith, Behold, my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Family simply isn't a big enough hammer. We need something much larger. Another hammer folks claim to be bigger is, "My (you supply the correct word such as synod, council, college, bishop, headquarters, etc.) tells me what to believe. Jesus had something to say about this

also. In Matthew 15:8-9 Inspiration records these words from Jesus, "This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching (as their) doctrines the precepts of men." Sorry, but this hammer is also too small.

One might claim any number of hammers as bigger and forcing on God the wishes and desires of mankind: friends, jobs, recreations, sports, alcohol, tobacco, country, science, or perhaps a thousand other things. Probably the hammer men claim as bigger than the word of God is the claim that 'the Holy Spirit moved me to what I do.' As subjective as this is, a rational person wonders how anyone could be duped into believing the Holy Spirit could, much less would, move someone to contradict God's word. This would of necessity make God a proponent of misinformation. Of course, this contemporary politi-



cally correct form merely means to lie. Titus 1:2 states, "...in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal;" and Heb 6:18 also states, "that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us." The New Testament is the complete word left by the complete work of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 3:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:3-12; 2 Peter 1:3-4.

Would you like the really big hammer, then God's word says, in Jeremiah 23:29, "Is not my word like a fire? saith Jehovah and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

So, you don't want to force any doctrinal issue? Time to pick up the really big hammer, the New Testament, and break all other hammers into pieces.

Foy Forehand

“I Have Quit Caring”

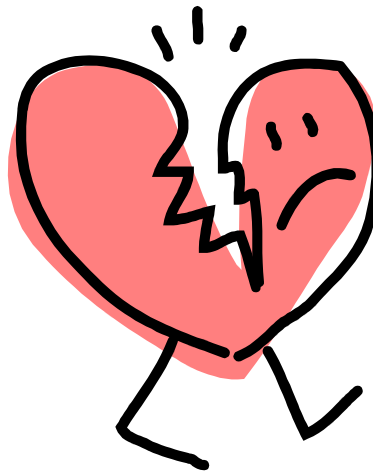
A discouraged person recently requested that his name be removed from a national journal devoted to exposing smut and garbage from media outlets and magazines across our nation. The person had simply written: "Please remove me from your mailing list. I have quit caring."

The quote caught my attention immediately! I was made to feel sick to my stomach, but somehow I was not surprised. As a nation, we have been overloaded for so long with lying, cheating, and immoral behavior, so much so that we have been truly overwhelmed. What's worse, there seems to be in the minds of some who have fought hard and long against such things, the idea that there is no way of stopping the slide, no way of changing the anti-God and anti-Biblical onslaught. As a result, many just quit caring. For them it is easier.

The child of God that is committed to following the teaching of the Bible not only faces the problems related to the above, but also he faces the "debarking" of God's doctrine found in the Bible by those that place little or no regard upon the authority of that Word. To those that oppose this fleeing of God's Word, it also appears that it is happening with increasing speed. Those trying to keep the "dam from breaking" are led to believe that nothing can be done to

stop the exodus of folks who have accepted this mainstream of liberal thinking. The result? Many once faithful and devoted Christians just quit caring because they perceive themselves as not being able to do anything to stop the flood of false teaching and the indifferent attitude toward proper interpretation of the Bible.

There is a lot at stake, my dear brethren! God has not left man, but it is



man that has left the safety and security of God and His Word (cf. Isa. 55:6-7; James 4:7-8). Without doubt, man has been duped into believing that the Bible is not reliable, that it has many mistakes and that it cannot be understood by scholars, much less the average man or woman.

My dear friend, do not be so deceived. Before falling into the evil web of Satan, think carefully about Paul's charge to Timothy to "continue thou in

the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of ...And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. " Paul then urges Timothy to stand by the scriptures because, "AH scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works " (2 Tim. 3:14-17). Do you believe the words you just read?

Yes, baptism is necessary to one's salvation (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:21, et.al.). No, we are not saved by faith alone (Jas. 21:14-24). Yes, how one worships God is important (John 4:24). Yes, there is teaching about marriage, divorce, and remarriage that must be adhered to (Matt. 5:32; 19:9). Yes, we can know the truth (John 8:31-32); and, yes, there are moral absolutes (cf. Gal. 5:19-26). We cannot stop caring about God's Truth!

My dear, faithful, and embattled brethren, we must not stop caring! We must "fight the good fight of faith " and "Keep that which is committed to [our] trust... " (1 Tim. 6:12-20). AMEN!

Stan Harvey

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 9/19/04

Morning	Contentment (part 2)
Scripture.....	1 Timothy 6:6-12
Evening	Q&A
Scripture.....	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	The Book of Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 9/12/04

Sunday Class.....	54
Sunday A.M.	76
Sunday P.M.	61
Wednesday	55
Contribution.....	\$1634.09
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

It has been one of those longer weeks than normal. We started out this week by going to the preacher's meeting in Joplin. Jerry Roller and Glenn Quigley went along with me to that event and we had a great time. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10th, at which time we will be having our gospel meeting. Foy is going to speak at the preacher's luncheon on that day. I hope you will make your plans to come along with us.

This past Tuesday evening I taught a computer class at the community center. We had several present and it turned out to be a great time for all. Evidently word is being passed around that I have a "knack" for computers and folks are interested in using my abilities in that regard. I've had a couple of individuals contact

me and pay me to help them with their computers, purely voluntary on their part. I'm glad to have the little "odd job" here and there. I'm not advertising by any means, but word of mouth does get you some business, I hear.

Wednesday morning, Mary Lynn went to the doctor and had an exam. The doctor said that the baby's heartbeat was just right and that everything looked good. We are so thankful for this. While we didn't get a girl, we are certainly thankful that the baby is healthy. We're still trying to pick out names. We're strongly considering the name "Rian" (ree-yun), right now. But we are still looking for a second name.

This past Thursday night we geared up for Cub Scouts. We had a rally at the Berryville lower elementary cafeteria and quite a few came. I was very encouraged with it. The kids, of

course, had a great time while the adults took care of business. It promises to be a good year for this program. I'm very hopeful that the church will have a good influence on these families.

Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for me and my efforts to serve the church and this community.

Elders:

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

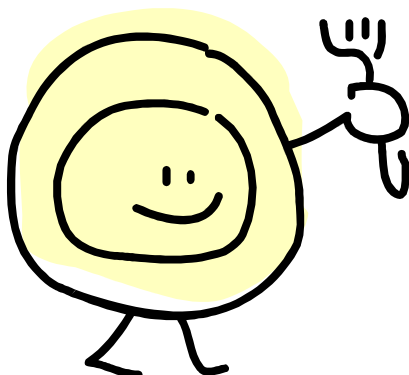
Deacons:

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 extend our sympathy to the family of Geraldine Kesner who passed from this life into the next this past Tuesday. Memorial services were held this past Friday morning. Mrs. Kesner was buried at Berryville.
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Patty, Gary Bragg, Mary Forehand, Justina Goucher, Jim McVey, Florene Neal, Bill Powell, Jack Sears, Helen Swink, Billie Willey.
- Please remember our shut-ins, Curtis Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Our monthly potluck is today! If you are visiting with us, we hope that you will stay and join us in a meal. Please make your plans to be part of the fellowship that we share together at this time!
- Next Sunday night is our scheduled youth rally which will be held at Dan and Hewetta Hand's house. Please make your plans to attend this spiritually fun event.
- Our gospel meeting is getting nearer and nearer in time. Are you inviting your friends? Are you distributing our flyers? Let's make a good effort to encourage others to come!
- If you are around, drop by the nursing home at 2:00 on Thursday afternoon for Bible class! We're studying the book of Matthew.
- 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

September 19th, 2004 September 26th, 2004

	September 19th, 2004	September 26th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
	Brent Stevens	John Gass
(assist)	Jack Gentry	Perry Foster
	Jerry Roller	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Ray Duncan	Ken Smith
	John Gass	Bob Moore
Closing Prayer	Jack Gentry	Glenn Quigley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Leon Duncan
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer:	Ken Smith	Kevin Cauley

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